Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'PUA, FPUC will help families and stimulate economy' PAGE 2

'This pandemic is a different kind of disaster' PAGE 3

75¢

Restrictions eased

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

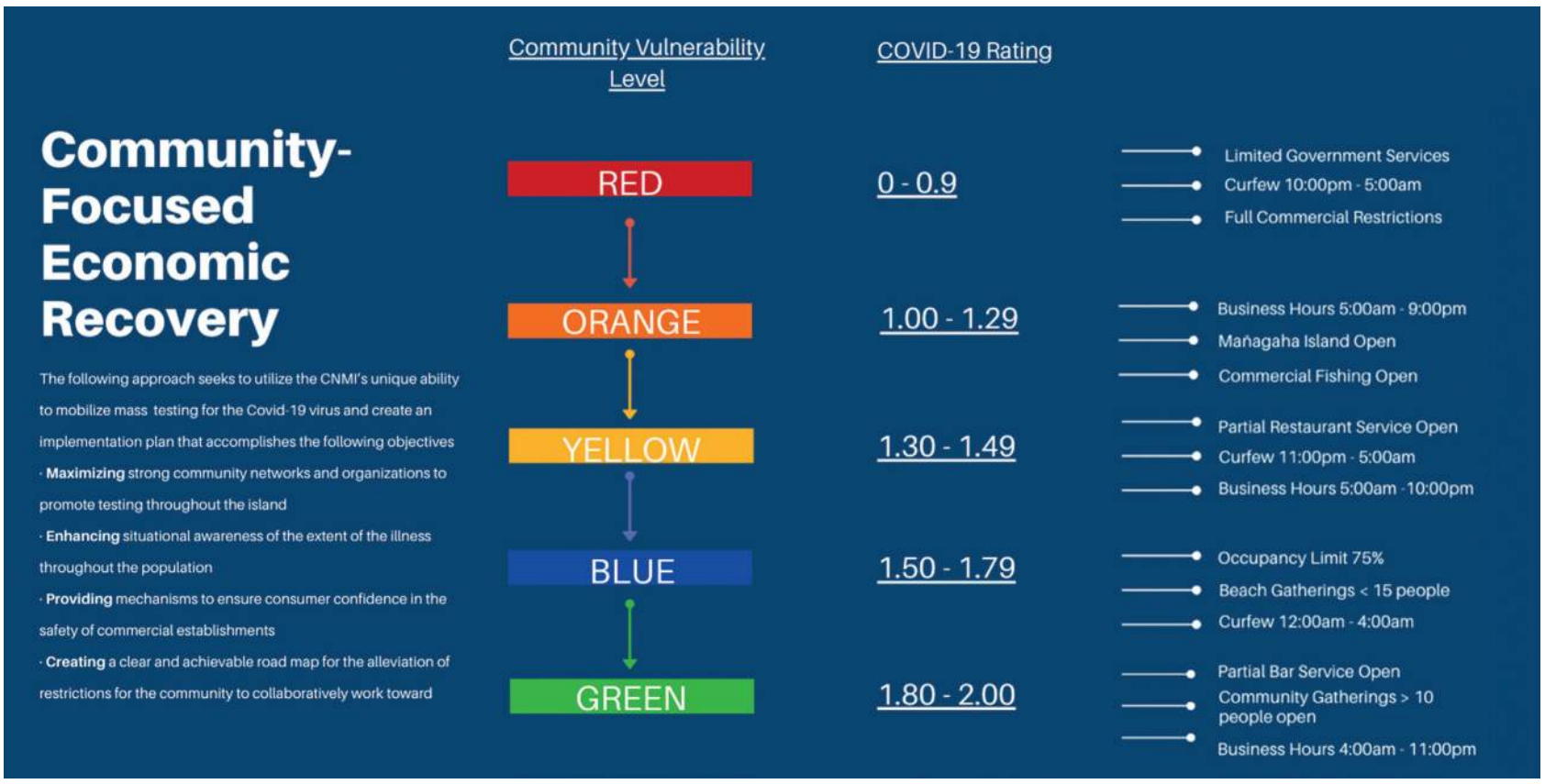
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is officially easing the restrictions on businesses and curfew, following amendments to the COVID-19 emergency directives that have been in place

- **Curfew: 11pm to 5am**
- **Church services and dine-ins OK'd**

since January to stop the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in the CNMI. Under a new color-coded community vulnerability scale, the CNMI is currently at Yellow, two steps down from the highest Red level.

With mass testing in place, which provides critical data on the state of coronavirus infec-

See EASED on Page 4


Community Vulnerability Level
COVID-19 Rating
Community-Focused Economic Recovery
The following approach seeks to utilize the CNMI's unique ability to mobilize mass testing for the Covid-19 virus and create an implementation plan that accomplishes the following objectives
· Maximizing strong community networks and organizations to promote testing throughout the island
· Enhancing situational awareness of the extent of the illness throughout the population
· Providing mechanisms to ensure consumer confidence in the safety of commercial establishments
· Creating a clear and achievable road map for the alleviation of restrictions for the community to collaboratively work toward
RED
0 - 0.9
Limited Government Services
Curfew 10:00pm - 5:00am
Full Commercial Restrictions
ORANGE
1.00 - 1.29
Business Hours 5:00am - 9:00pm
Mañagaha Island Open
Commercial Fishing Open
YELLOW
1.30 - 1.49
Partial Restaurant Service Open
Curfew 11:00pm - 5:00am
Business Hours 5:00am -10:00pm
BLUE
1.50 - 1.79
Occupancy Limit 75%
Beach Gatherings < 15 people
Curfew 12:00am - 4:00am
GREEN
1.80 - 2.00
Partial Bar Service Open
Community Gatherings > 10 people open
Business Hours 4:00am - 11:00pm

AT A GLANCE

As of 5pm, May 25, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	166	0	166
Recovered	138	0	138
Active	23	0	23
Deaths	6*	0	6*

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	22	0	22
Recovered	13	0	13
Active	7	0	7
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**			4,757

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With yesterday being a federal holiday, the cumulative number of persons tested remains the same as of May 24.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

'IPI scrambling to make payments'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is really scraping the bottom of the barrel as it was barely able to pay the CNMI government last Friday $3 million in Business Gross Revenue Tax for up to April 2019.

The company was still short, however, of the $250,000 that it needed to pay the Department of Public Lands, ac-

See IPI on Page 4

PSS transitions to 100% remote learning

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has begun preparations for their transition to 100% remote learning once they open in September.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, with PSS officially set to open in September with COVID-19 still a major threat to students

See PSS on Page 4

NMI marks pared down Memorial Day

Family members pray for a fallen loved one at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery yesterday as part of the national commemoration of Memorial Day.
KRIZEL TUAZON

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Memorial Day, a day to honor those who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. armed forces, was a little different—and more modest—this year due to COVID-19 protocols.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Pala-

See MEMORIAL on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

BAB Korean Restaurant reopens with a new drive-thru counter and rice toppings, CupBAB.

PAGE 11

NATION

The Memorial Day weekend in the U.S. meant big crowds at beaches and health warnings.

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Local

‘PUA, FPUC will help families and stimulate economy’

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The $70.5 million approved for initial disbursement for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs in the CNMI will not only help the unemployed, but will also stimulate the local economy, said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

With the U.S. Department of Labor’s recent approval of the CNMI’s implementation plan for the release of the PUA and FPUC, Torres hopes that the unemployed start receiving the assistance funds soon.

“So we got $70 million approved by PUA and, hopefully by early next week, we should have the application, and hopefully be able to start having our unemployed receive those funding,” Torres said in an interview yesterday.

Torres

According to the governor, there are almost 7,000 unemployed in the Commonwealth. The latest figures from the U.S. Department of Labor showed that nearly 39 million Americans have lost their jobs in the past nine weeks. “When you look at all of it, even in the United States, there’s more than 30 million unemployed. Here in the CNMI, we’re almost reaching 7,000. This [PUA and FPUC] will definitely help not just the family but, for sure, the economy, to have new money come in,” he said.

“Our revenue here is tourism. We don’t have that now, but with our federal partners giving us the revenue that would be rolling in, that is new money that will stimulate the economy,” Torres added.

The CNMI Department of Labor has been undergoing training from the U.S. Department of Labor on the processes, given that the CNMI has never had an unemployment program prior to the pandemic.

Employment Services director Eugene Tebuteb said in an interview last week that the U.S. Department of Labor has several types of training under the PUA program, which include claims taking, adjudication, overpayments, and appeals.

“We all have to be well-versed within each phase of the program,” he said.

There are essentially two phases of the program—the initial claims phase and the request for weekly claims. Tebuted also said that the PUA program is retroactive.

“During the initial claims, we’re not going to require your W2 forms or check stubs or employment history. All you’re going to be required to submit are two forms of ID and your social security card number,” he said. “At any time your job was lost or interrupted due to COVID-19 is the time that you can claim, up to the date you actually file your claim. The start date for the whole program is Feb. 2 until Dec. 26 of this year. This is just for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program.”

The FPUC program adds a supplemental $600 to what an individual would get from PUA, and only from March 29 to July 31.

“This is $600 a week, on top of what you get from PUA. The maximum benefit for PUA is $345 a week. … If you’re still working, but your hours were reduced due to COVID-19, we take the amount of earnings you had and use it against the maximum PUA benefit of $345 a week,” he said.

The PUA and FPUC are only for U.S. citizens. For the latest information and guidance on PUA and FPUC visit marianaslabor.net.

2020 CNMI Census launches temporary telephone operations

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The 2020 Census of the CNMI has officially opened a temporary telephone operations center to enhance its enumeration efforts, and is asking everyone to be on the lookout for a “Notice of Visit” envelope that they will be handing out to homes soon.

In an official video, CNMI Census shared that a census taker will go to a house to hand out a notice of visit, which will contain the information that the receiver needs to provide, when calling in to be interviewed.

“We are asking you to call us to help assure that you are talking to a census taker. The census employees will not call you to do the interview unless you have previously scheduled a time to do so,” the video states.

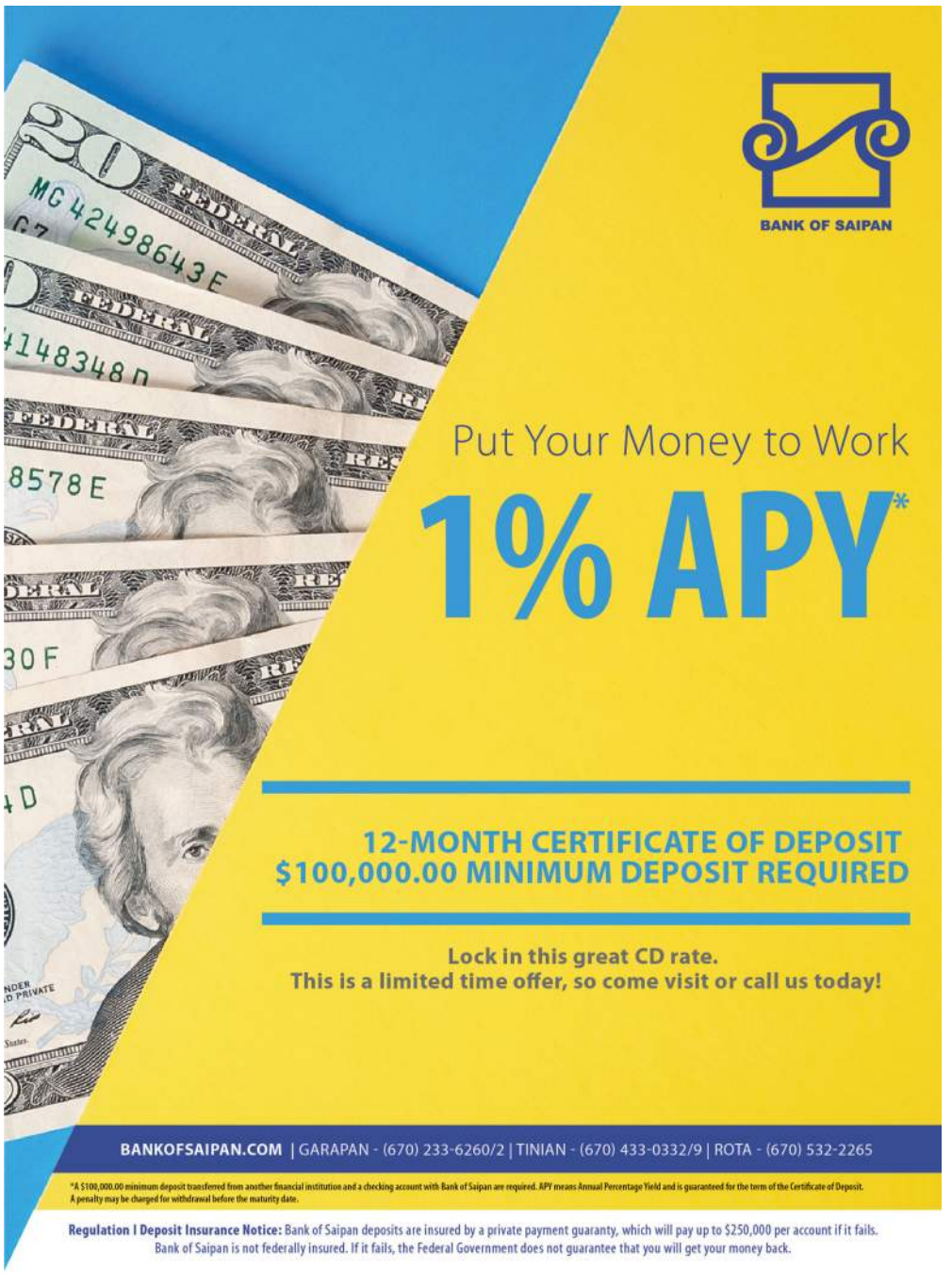
In addition, Census is assuring that all of its employees will be following the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to keep everyone safe as the enumeration takes place.

Last May 15, the U.S. Census Bureau said that it is reopening offices in the island areas, including the CNMI, and that “island area census workers are set to resume contacting every household or living quarters to conduct an in-person interview around June 1.”

In-person Census field operations in the CNMI stopped last March 16, following Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’ Executive Order 2020-04, which placed the CNMI under a state of public health emergency for COVID-19, effecting a government shutdown.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is urging everyone to cooperate with the CNMI Census. “Data collection in the field stopped on March 16 because of the pandemic stay-at-home order. Since then, the Census Bureau has worked with the local office, so it is ready to collect data in a way that protects the health of census staff and the public. We urge everyone to cooperate with this renewed effort,” Sablan said. “When census takers come to your door, maintain social distance and apply the other good health habits we have all learned. But, please, answer their questions. Your personal data is kept confidential. All our information added together, however, will make a big difference in our lives over the next 10 years.”

A census of the population is conducted every 10 years, per the U.S. Constitution. Census statistics are critical as it informs how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local, and federal lawmakers every year for the next 10 years.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‘This pandemic is a different kind of disaster’

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

States and territories usually call on the Federal Emergency Management Agency for help in times of disasters like the COVID-19 pandemic. FEMA then calls on over 40 agencies for help when all efforts have been exhausted and there still remains some unmet needs. That’s when the U.S. Department of Defense steps in.

Elliot

That is why, with FEMA already on the ground in the CNMI, DOD people are on the islands right now. Harry W. Elliot IV, who is DOD’s coordinating officer and environmental counsel for Joint Region Marianas, said that they are working with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to identify unmet needs that the DOD could fill.

“CHCC may have unmet needs but they are still working to procure it themselves. They only come to the federal government when they are not able to meet those needs on their own. …Right this minute, there isn’t a need that DOD has been asked to meet beside what we already have,” he said.

At the moment, DOD has six nurses, one microbiologist, and four medical laboratory technicians, all from the U.S. Army, who are here on the ground and supporting CHCC. “We also have some support staff, members of the local Army Reserve Center has been activated along with myself, Army Lt. Colonel Richard Barcinas and Army Major Lee McPhatter. …DOD also provides airlift, either strategic airlift like the big C17 that came in about seven weeks ago or movement between the islands after Yutu…[when] we were using DOD helicopters to move around,” he added.

Elliot describes the COVID-19 pandemic as “a very different kind of disaster,” with a specific role for DID’s response. “The beauty of what we do is flexibility. … If you think about a disaster, all the response work starts locally and when it becomes really big, they call for DOD for help. …The DOD can put the right capabilities at the right time,” he said. “Our assistance can happen in different ways. FEMA is normally the lead federal agency when it comes to disasters and if they think that DOD is going to be a big part of a particular mission, they request for a defense coordinating officer like me. Similarly, the local government either of the state or territory can make that request as well and that is typically associated with a presidential disaster declaration, which the CNMI had.”

Elliot said that DOD typically gets involved in major disasters. “When we come to help, it normally requires a lot. …When Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI, DOD was part of the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support or TETRIS program. It was designed to assist families whose homes were destroyed by Yutu by helping them rebuild temporary roofs and put up tents. …You would not likely see that in California being done by the military because in California, FEMA could contract with a private company or even perhaps with another federal agency. But in Guam and the CNMI, there isn’t that capability all the time. Things out here is different as and it takes a bit of creativity because you can’t do things like you do in California, Texas, or other states in the mainland,” he added.

Elliot has taken part in support efforts in every disaster in Guam and CNMI for the past seven years and praises the CNMI government and the community for implementing early preventative steps to stop the spread COVID-19 in the Marianas. “I think the CNMI is the first jurisdiction in the U.S. to declare a disaster. People set aside their political differences to get after this problem, which makes our job so much easier. Nobody is looking at us for the answer. They were looking at us to help provide the things that they may not be able to get by themselves,” he said.

“…Every disaster that I have been a part of has taught me many things. I don’t know what the future of DOD defense civil authorities responses are going to be in Guam or [the] CNMI, but I can assure that the level of commitment will be unchanged and that whatever knowledge I gain from this, I intend to pass along to whoever comes to support Guam and the CNMI,” he added.

After eight weeks on Saipan, Elliot flew back to Guam last Saturday where he is based for almost seven years now with his wife and children. The trip back to Guam does not mean that DOD’s work in the CNMI is over. “We are at a point where FEMA, CHCC, and the leadership of [the] CNMI have plans in place, plans that I hope we never have to execute but we are ready. CHCC has done a great deal of work planning the Kanoa [Resort] alternate care site,” he said. “CHCC, together with FEMA, have identified what the shortfalls would be if there were to be an increase in COVID-19 cases and what the military has done is take that information and be able to plan. If the worst happens, this is how we’re going to respond and that type of planning is really a luxury in a response. We are so lucky that we are not at the point that CHCC is overwhelmed and that gives us the time to put good plans in place,” he added.

Lawmaker promotes self-sufficiency via agriculture

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

In food security matters, House vice speaker Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) believes that agriculture could help save the Commonwealth.

Speaking in an interview yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said that people need to start looking into agriculture, as it could supplement the CNMI’s major industry, tourism.

“It could be an…alternative industry for the Commonwealth,” he said. “We have fertile lands. …If we can produce our own vegetables, we can eliminate importing those products from across the world, and that way, we can be more self-sufficient.”

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres stressed last week the importance of agriculture to the CNMI’s economy and livelihood, and announced that he welcomes more agriculture on the island.

The House of Representatives passed last March Deleon Guerrero’s House Bill 21-108 that would rebuild and strengthen the agriculture sector in the CNMI, through the Kagman Commercial Farm Plot program. There are currently over 30 farm plots in Kagman.

“I want to look into the farm plots that can be made available for commercial farming. That way we can open it up for anybody who wants to promote commercial agriculture, and also, to the extent, grazing, raising cattle, pigs, goats, chickens, dairy products, you name it,” he said.

The bill transfers the authority to manage public lands from the Department of Public Lands to the Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Division of Agriculture for the Kagman Commercial Farm Plot program.

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EASED

From Page 1

tion on island, and the quick implementation and community adoption of the mitigation measures set by the government, the CNMI has flattened the peak of the curve, which was forecasted to happen this May.

For a safe and cautious transition, Torres' economic recovery team created a four-colored framework to guide the resumption of domestic activity in the CNMI, based on the mass testing, which the government refers to as a community-based testing initiative. This graduated cumulative testing brackets—from the safest, which is Green, to the worst, which is Red—allow for the alleviation of restrictions set under the directives. It goes from Green, to Blue, to Yellow, to Orange, and finally Red, and becomes effective starting today, May 26, 2020. These restrictions can be scaled up or back, based on the rate of the community's vulnerability over a period of 30 days, and calculated daily by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force.

Based on the recent testing data collected by the CHCC and the COVID-19 Task Force, the CNMI's is now at level Yellow.

"We continue to urge individuals to practice good hygiene, exercise social distancing at all times when not at home, and to wear face masks when in public, especially when feeling ill. Additionally, we encourage individuals and businesses to seek guidance regarding the implemented social distancing requirements from CHCC and/or the COVID-19 Task Force," said an Office of the Governor statement yesterday.

The community is also encouraged to report any non-compliance to CHCC and/or the COVID-19 Task Force.

These amendments take effect today, May 26, 2020.

Social distancing and curfew

While gatherings of more than 10 people in the same room or single space, at the same time, remain prohibited, church services can now start, provided that the attendance be limited to 25% of the allowed occupancy of the place of worship, and that social distancing and sanitation guidelines be strictly observed.

Non-contact recreational activities, such as exercise in gyms, are now permitted, also under strict social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

Before resuming operations, guidance on mandatory social distancing and sanitation implementation must be sought from CHCC, and must be implemented throughout the continued State of Significant Emergency and Public Health Emergency.

Everyone should continue to practice social distancing, and are strongly encouraged to wear face masks when outside the home.

Curfew hours are now from 11pm to 5am.

Business operations

Businesses that have facilities open to the general public can now open from 5am to 9pm, and may operate beyond these times, but not be open to the general public. Drop off/pick up and delivery services are not allowed past curfew.

Social distancing guidelines must be implemented, including the posting of "one-way" flow signs for entrance and exit; crowd control; availability of hand sanitizer station on entry and on exit; provision of protective barriers between worker and customer; and ensuring there are visible customer lineup markers that are 6 feet apart leading to the cashier counter.

Businesses must regularly and frequently clean all surfaces; sanitize main entrance door handles; sanitize handles of shopping baskets and shopping carts after each use; sanitize handles for chill boxes, cooler, and freezers.

Businesses shall also limit occupancy to 50% in accordance with supplemental regulatory guidance set by the CHCC and the Department of Public Works' Building Code.

Businesses unable to properly implement the guidelines should remain closed until it can and does in fact, properly implement the guidelines.

CHCC, public and private health clinics, dental clinics, and pharmacies may set hours that, in their judgment, best deal with the COVID-19 threat. These businesses are encouraged to follow best social distancing practices for health facilities.

Gas stations may be open during business hours.

First-time violators among businesses will be closed immediately for a month; second-time violators will be immediately closed for six months; and third-time or more offense violators will be immediately closed for a year.

Restaurants

Dine-ins are now allowed under strict social distancing parameters, and at 25% of a restaurant's original permitted occupancy limit.

All other businesses that offer food or beverages, such as bars, must remain closed for on-premises consumption. In-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive through, and curb-side pick-up are allowed. Hotel restaurants may continue to provide room service and take-out. Catering services may still continue.

Establishments offering food or beverages for take-out, including food trucks, must ensure that patrons maintain adequate social distancing.

Food establishments are also encouraged to use outdoor dining space wherever possible.

Parks and recreation

All public parks, including the Grotto, remain closed to the public. Only Mañagaha Island is open now to the public, so long as social distancing requirements are implemented for both transport vessels and on-island activities. Transport vessels must do constant and consistent disinfection.

Only exercise and wellness, both physical and mental, and shoreline subsistence fishing and commercial fishing, are allowed in public beaches and pathways, subject to strict social distancing.

All businesses engaged in gaming, including the casino, video poker establishments, and e-gaming facilities, as well as engaged in recreational and amusement type activities, remain closed to the public.

Tourism industry

Hotels, tour operators and tourism industry stakeholders may begin preparations for thermal monitoring and establish internal Standard Operating Procedures for mitigating risk in preparation for tourist arrivals

Preparations among tourism operators may continue in anticipation of the resumption of flights and guidance should be sought on the steps necessary to resume international flights.

PSS

From Page 1

and staff, PSS is now focusing all its efforts on preparing for the first school year that will be 100% online.

"We're preparing our plans. The initial plan was face-to-face learning and some remote learning but, with the virus, we're not 100% safe. In the fall, we're pursing 100% distance education or we're going to attempt 100% so teachers need to be trained. We will officially open in September," he said.

However, with PSS pursuing remote learning, Ada said the administration will cut back on the hiring of teachers.

"We are not hiring all the teachers. We're looking at our staffing pattern. We're looking at the number of teachers that we need. Principals are looking at the staffing pattern and at enrollment. Come August and we see a surge of enrollment, we may need to hire [more] teachers. Different schools have different needs. It depends on the population and the village," he said.

The first phase of the transition to remote learning, Ada said, is securing internet connection for students who don't have access at home.

"All of our efforts are really [geared toward the transition] to remote learning. So first is the WiFi on Wheels program to make sure that the community has access to internet, to make sure there are equipment and supplies for those communities," he said.

Wifi on Wheels, or WOW, means equipping school buses with WiFi routers and deploying them to specific areas on the islands where students can go to and connect to the internet. The students will be in cars with their parents, in compliance with social distancing rules. This means the students will be using their own web-enabled gadgets to connect to the internet.

As part of the phase to secure internet connection for families who don't have it, PSS is also working on getting MiFi vouchers. This refers to a wireless router that acts as mobile WiFi hotspot.

"The second attempt is the MiFi. We're doing a survey on students who don't have internet at home and I'm working with IT&E and Docomo regarding vouchers for families who need it. That will launch in September," he said.

PSS is also working on incorporating social and emotional training sessions through remote learning for student.

IPI

From Page 1

cording to IPI treasury director Frances Mafnas.

In her declaration filed in federal court last Friday, Mafnas said the payment is due for the annual $250,000 public land lease to DPL. "If we do not make the payment, DPL could cancel the land lease where the casino is," she said.

She disclosed that, based on IPI's current situation, they will not be able to pay any taxes unless they get substantial help from their parent company in Hong Kong.

Mafnas issued the declaration in support of IPI's motion asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to suspend proceedings in Pacific Rim Land Development LLC's lawsuit until 10 days after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit resolves IPI's appeal. The casino company had asked the Ninth Circuit to reverse Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's order last April 23 for IPI to pay Pacific Rim $5.65 million for breach of contract. Pacific Rim is IPI's former contractor.

IPI's money woes are on top of the $15 million for annual casino license fee and the $3 million fee for the Commonwealth Casino Commission regulatory fee that are due toward the end of the year, Mafnas said.

Last March 17, IPI shut down its casino to comply with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' directive due to COVID-19 pandemic. Because they have no income, they had to furlough hundreds of employees, Mafnas said.

"We are now completely dependent on financial assistance from the parent company to meet our expenses," she added.

Making payroll has been a serious problem for IPI as they are still employing 1,068 employees, mostly in construction for the casino/resort in Garapan. Mafnas said they were having funding issues since payroll 9 (April 24). She said they were able to come up with funds on time to release payroll for those earning $10.50 per hour or less last April 24. They partially released payroll 9 last May 8, and fully released payroll 9 last Friday.

IPI also experienced funding issues for payroll 10 (May 8). Mafnas said they released checks for those earning below $10.50 per hour on time last May 8 and checks for above $10.50 an hour were released last Friday.

For payroll 11 (May 22), all the payroll checks were released last Friday.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MEMORIAL

From Page 1

cios led the Memorial Day ceremony in the CNMI yesterday at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi that was highlighted by a wreath-laying ceremony and short prayers.

Torres and Palacios were joined yesterday by U.S. Army Reserve soldiers, members of the Veteran of Foreign Wars, lawmakers, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and families of fallen veterans.

"We respect those who have been laid here and their spouses, and never to forget what our family and our spouses also sacrifice for us to receive the freedom that we enjoy today and to appreciate our own armed forces," said Torres in his short speech.

In a statement later from the Office of the Governor, Torres stated that it is "our sacred duty to honor and remember our brave heroes who gave their all devotion in defense for our country, freedom, and everything we hold dearly.

"We salute every soldier who served to protect our islands, and we offer a renewed call toward friendship and peace. Our fallen heroes have given us the opportunity to make the Marianas better for generations to come," Torres added. "We join the families of our heroes to pay tribute to their service and remember their sacrifices. While we cannot honor their memory physically together like we usually do, we keep every family in our prayers."

Apatang, who served in the U.S. Army for 20 years, said that Memorial Day is a very special day for him. "Today is a very special day for me, especially as a veteran and a combat vet. I know how it is in the combat field and a lot of my buddies have passed on," said Apatang. "This day, we honor them for sacrificing their lives for our freedom, and we really appreciate that, and we send prayers for them and the family members who are still grieving."

Apatang remembers those who have passed on, not only today but every day and "because of them, we are enjoying the freedom that we have now."

Separately, House vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said, "Memorial Day is a day that every year we pay gratitude to our fallen comrades, the fallen braves, who have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom which we enjoy today and every day. We also pay gratitude to the families of our fallen braves because they too sacrifice while their spouses or families who are serving."

Joaquin I. Deleon Guerrero, who has served six years in the U.S. Army, was visiting his wife who is buried at the Veterans Cemetery. "It's the least we can do, which is lay the wreath. It's very little but at least we can do [even with] our situation" he said.

Deleon Guerrero remembers past Memorial Days that bring in huge crowds. "Normally, this is a huge crowd, but now it's very minimal, and it looks like people are going with the social distance, the masks, and everything, which is good," Deleon Guerrero added. He also thanked Torres for making it possible.

Apatang pushes for pet owner's accountability

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

After a decade from when the first animal protection bill was introduced by then-representative Stanley Torres, to the recent passing of the Animal Rights Protection Bill, introduced by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, animal lovers on island are now hoping for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to make history and enact the bill.

No less than Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang hopes that the governor signs it into law.

"I've been supporting that bill since the beginning. …I want to thank the House and the Senate for passing that finally. It has been up there, back and forth, for many, many years, and I hope the governor will sign that," he said.

The mayor said the bill was initially put together by many who had come to the CNMI years ago and condemned the cruelty that was being done against animals, especially the feral ones.

"If you have a pet, you are supposed to take care of them. Take them to the vet, make sure they're taken care of. The old age is gone, we need to take care of these animals," Apatang said.

Pet owner accountability

Another legislation could also be brewing, following Apatang's disclosure that he has asked a member of the Legislature to draft a bill that would make pet owners liable for injuries or untoward incidents caused by their pets. This is in reference to a story about an individual who was bitten by a dog and reportedly died.

Apatang

"I [asked] one of the members of the Legislature to see if they can come up with a bill to make pet owners be responsible and liable for things like that. Somebody has to be responsible for their pets," Apatang said. "Right now, the law says you have to leash your dog. Get it registered. But there's nothing in the book that says the owner is responsible. …We just have to be responsible. If you're [going to] have a pet, take care of it."

Animal shelter

When asked about the Saipan Mayor's Office's animal shelter project, Apatang said that they are "seeing the light finally."

Last December, Dog Control Program manager Martin Pangelinan projected that a new state-of-the art animal shelter could possibly be completed in a year's time. The current shelter in As Perdido, which got hit by Super Typhoon Yutu, can only accommodate 60 animals.

"We have funding from [the Federal Emergency Management Agency], we have local funding to add to the shelter, but we went almost two years trying to secure an environment assessment from FEMA. After that, we have to wait for the U.S. Corps of Engineers to give us an approval on the permitting process," he said. "We're getting something back from Corps of Engineers and, hopefully, we can start something this year before the price starts going up."

Apatang said he does not want to see another re-bid on the project and disclosed that the contractor that won the bid keeps raising the cost. "I want to see that thing finished. The animals need someplace where we can put them in and take care of them."

Summer opening for Tinian Children's Park eyed

Joshua Hobelman, deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Detail Tinian, uses a skid steer with a trenching attachment to carve a trench for the foundation of a jungle gym at the Tinian children's park.

U.S. NAVY/YOHANES NUGUSE

The Tinian Mayor's Office is crossing its fingers that it will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its Tinian Children's Park before the summer ends.

After clearing debris that's been left over from previous typhoons, the U.S. Navy Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 finally completed installing the playground equipment that had been donated by IT&E.

"I would like to sincerely thank IT&E for their generous donation," said Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, who also acknowledged the Projects Management Division under his office for spearheading the project. "I extend my appreciation to the special projects team for their hard work and dedication to enhancing the park with…new recreational activities for our youth."

Aldan identified the Tinian Children's Park as one of his priorities to enhance youth development and family recreational activities. A survey that was sent out to schools and community members early this year regarding their vision for the park all came back positive.

Applications for funding were submitted to the Community Block Development Grant and the Technical Assistance Program Grant to replace chain link fences, repair concrete benches and picnic tables, build pavilions, purchase and install more playground equipment, build a basketball court and volleyball court, renovate the bathrooms and changing rooms, install new light posts, construct a site for vendors, and plan a splash pad or a form of recreational water activity for children. The Projects Management Division is hoping for positive news from the two grantors between July or August.

The Tinian Children's Park will be opened to the public once the installation of new activities/facilities and the renovation of the bathrooms/changing rooms are complete.

If all plans go well without any interruption, summer time will be the target of ribbon-cutting for the Tinian Children's Park. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
JOB VACANCY

ONE (1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Sister Remedios Community Center Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, currect police clearance and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020 AT 4:00PM

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-016

Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of One Brand New Cummins Diesel Engine with a Capacity to Generate 2.0 MW

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Equipment Supply and Services (Design, Engineering and Supervision - Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training and Handover) of 1 complete new engine system. Bidders must note that new Cummins engine will replace Cummins engine no. 3 at the CUC Rota Power Plant in the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEM's) or ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURE'S AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR from which CUC intends to select one Bidder and enter into a contract agreement for CUC's power supply requirements

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non- refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota on **June 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Prospective Bidders shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-20-016" Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of One Brand New Cummins Diesel Engine with a Capacity to Generate 2.0 MW*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the IFB. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Bid price must accompany the Bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid package, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

DCCA-CCDF's spending plan for CARES ACT funding

The Child Care Development Fund Program of the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has unveiled its plan on how it will use of $3.25 million it got under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

According to the CCDF program, the funding will be used to cover the following activities:

■ $163,000 for administration

■ $1,050,000 for child care subsidy

■ $1,700,000 for quality activities that include addressing territory and CCDF health and safety standards/regulations, improving child care quality through the Quality Rating and Improvement Systems activities, training and professional development, and technical assistance.

■ $340,000 for quality activities specifically directed for infants and toddlers.

The DCCA CCDF Program has until Sept. 30, 2022, to obligate these funds and until Sept. 30, 2023, to liquidate the funds.

The CCDF Program is considering changes to policies and program requirements, including changes as a result of the planned spending activities for the CARES Act. These changes may need a State Plan Amendment or applying for a Waiver for Extraordinary Circumstances with subsequent Amendment, if needed.

As the CCDF Program works toward making and getting approval for these changes, we ask early childhood programs such as day care centers and other child care providers to be patient. Information will be available as soon as policies and procedures are in place and will be posted in the Child Care Licensing Program website at www.cnmicclp.gov.mp.

As a reminder, the CARES Act that the CNMI received is meant to support activities related to before and after-school programs and child care. School-related activities may not be supported under these funds.

For information regarding the CCDF Program, contact program administrator Maribel Loste at (670) 664-2576/2575 or email at mloste.cnmiccdf@gmail.com.

For information on how to apply to be a child care provider, contact Gordon Salas, Child Care Licensing Program supervisor, at (670) 783-8599 or email at gbsdccacclp@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Court asked to determine whether the testimony of expert witness admissible

The U.S. government has requested the federal court to hold an evidentiary hearing to address whether the testimony of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig's proposed expert witness, former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent and federal criminal investigator Dr. Gregory Vecchi, is admissible under Federal Rules of Evidence.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley has also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to compel Atalig to produce material and information needed to prepare for such hearing.

Last May 19, Atalig and his co-defendant and girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, provided the prosecution with a 12-page "second supplementary summary of expert testimony of Dr. Vecchi." O'Malley said the summary briefly reports Vecchi's qualifications and explains some issues that Vecchi intends to testify. O'Malley said the summaries cite no scientific authority for the proposition that warning interviewees that lying to a federal agent is a crime is more likely to produce a false confession than the truth.

Without this information, Vecchi's testimony will be no more than a retired agent getting paid to armchair quarterback the work of active investigators, and it should not bear the imprimatur of "expert," O'Malley said.

He said the summaries indicate that should Office of the Public Auditor investigator Travis Hurst or Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park testify that Efraim and Evelyn Atalig and/or certain unindicted co-conspirators made inculpatory admissions during their interviews, Vecchi will testify that the jury should doubt their credibility because Hurst and Park exhibited "confirmation bias" during the interviews, and had a pattern of failing to comply with internal protocols throughout the investigation. However, O'Malley pointed out, the summaries provide no information about the science, principles, or methodologies upon which Vecchi's testimony will rely. He said the summaries neither provide nor cite any scholarly test or scientific study that suggests a criminal investigator who fails to comply with internal draft reporting procedures will tend to give unreliable or dishonest testimony. Nor do the summaries explain how comparing a number of interview reports to subsequent affidavits drafted by the interviewees is a tested, reliable, and generally-accepted method of identifying confirmation bias, he added.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has set the jury trial of the Ataligs on Aug. 4, 2020, instead of July 7, 2020, granting the U.S. government's request to reset the trial date as the prosecution's key witness will undergo a three-week training. The Ataligs, through counsel, did not oppose resetting the trial date.

The trial has already been reset several times for many reasons; the recent one being the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manglona also granted the Ataligs' joint motion to amend their witness list to add Vecchi. David G. Banes, counsel for Efraim Atalig, said that Vecchi is expected to testify that Park's investigation in this case shows confirmation bias against the Ataligs. Banes said Vecchi is expected to testify that Park improperly influenced and threatened witnesses and failed to conform to accepted investigative standards and practices.

Efraim and Evelyn Atalig are being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement. The charges are related to at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

KHS alumnus, 10 others commissioned as Army officers

An alumnus of Kagman High School on Saipan was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army on Saturday in a private ceremony at the University of Guam.

Erbert Camacho Santiago Jr., who will be with the Guam Army National Guard, was commissioned with 10 other UOG Army Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets. The commissioning ceremony is the culmination of the ROTC program that the cadets undertook while studying at the University of Guam. The cadets developed their leadership skills in the ROTC classroom and field training environments with the hall-mark of the ROTC curriculum being the real-world application of the leadership instruction. The cadets participated in numerous paid summer internships and military training courses throughout the world as well as annual field training exercises and cultural exchange events to hone their abilities to lead people in challenging environments.

This year's commissioned cadets became second lieutenants, serving on active duty in the Army or as reservists in the Guam Army National Guard. As part of the ceremony, the cadets also were assigned to their branches, or military specialties.

"We are so proud of our new lieutenants and the hard work they put in to become the best leaders they can be," said Lt. Col. Thomas Anderson, the professor of military science at the University of Guam. "Wherever they go next, they go as leader-ambassadors representing the island of Guam and our region, and they will carry with them the Triton Warrior spirit of the University of Guam's ROTC program. They have so much to be proud of."

Aside from Santiago, the other cadets who earned their commission as U.S. Army second lieutenants are:

■ Alex D. Aguero, active duty, Infantry Officer, graduated from Simon A. Sanchez High School

■ Shawn Balinas, active duty, Medical Services Officer, graduated from Simon A. Sanchez High School

■ Lucand G. Camacho, active duty, Cyber Officer, graduated from Simon A. Sanchez High School

■ Ryan Guzman, active duty, Engineer Officer, graduated from Southern High School

■ Larry Fuentes Llegado, active duty, Air Defense Artillery Officer, graduated from John F. Kennedy High School

■ Jerome Long, Guam Army National Guard, graduated from Flour Bluff High School (Texas)

■ Christelyn Joy O. Lopez, active duty, Adjutant General Officer, graduated from Simon A. Sanchez High School

■ Brandon Pablo, Guam Army National Guard, graduated from Father Duenas Memorial School

■ Christopher J.M. San Miguel, active duty, Military Intelligence Officer, graduated from Notre Dame High School

■ Erbert Camacho Santiago Jr., Guam Army National Guard, graduated from Kagman High School (Saipan)

■ Brendan Santos, active duty, Engineer Officer, graduated from George Washington High School

The UOG ROTC program was established in October 1979 and is celebrating 40 years of producing dynamic leaders for Guam, the Pacific, and the United States of America. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 26, 1999

Rota mayor opposes use of CPA land for power plant

Rota Mayor Benjamin M. Manglona has urged the Commonwealth Ports Authority to maintain ownership of its property which the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has proposed to use for its planned Rota Power Plant. According to Manglona, the piece of land located in West Harbor is better left with CPA as it recommended CUC to look for another site. Based on CPA's master plan, a commercial dock will be established within the harbor along the shoreline adjacent to the existing CUC Power Plant. The 1995 Rota Physical and Economic Master Plan specified that the CUC Power Plant and the Public Works Facilities be transferred from the port area to a more central location in the future.

MHS gym ready for 2000

Following the signing of Public Law 11-78 which earmarked money for the Marianas High School gymnasium, the Public School System is set to complete the long-delayed project this year. The PSS CIP Committee is preparing to send out invitation for contractors to finish the interior of the gymnasium and other finishing requirements. PSS architect Christopher Fryling said the roofing part is already out for bid. Together with the interior section, completion work for the gym is expected to run until six months, he said.

May 26, 2000

Commerce sees turnaround in economy

The path toward recovery is the only direction left for the CNMI economy to take after having been knocked down by strings of financial upheavals caused by the currency crisis in major Asian countries, the Department of Commerce said. Citing the prevailing business cycle pattern, acting Commerce Secretary David S. Palacios said the local economy has already reached rock bottom as indicated by the closure of too many businesses since the onslaught of the recession in 1997. "No one economy is immune to disturbances in the business cycle. Each goes through a cyclical fluctuation, be it peak, contraction, trough, or expansion," Mr. Palacios added.

Asiana eyes more direct flights to NMI

Asiana Airlines is eyeing additional direct flights from key cities in Korea to Saipan as the number of visitors from the second largest market for CNMI's tourism industry continues to increase amid the country's economic resurgence. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio offered his assistance to the carrier during a courtesy visit by some Asiana officials to his Capitol Hill office, noting that direct flight service to the Commonwealth is important to the island's economy.At present, Asiana flies daily from Seoul and three times a week from Pusan to Saipan, bringing in thousands of visitors to the island. The growth in Korea, traditionally the island's second biggest source of tourism revenues, resulted in a 74 percent jump last April compared to the same period in 1999, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

May 26, 2004

Congress takes up brown tree snake

CNMI Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio recently provided oral testimony in Congress in support of a bill to provide for the control and eradication of the brown tree snake on Guam and the prevention of the introduction of the BTS to other areas of the United States and territories. H.R. 3479, or the proposed Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act, was introduced by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo and Hawaii Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Ed Case. At the legislative hearing conducted May 13 by the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans of the U.S. House Committee on Resources, Tenorio spoke of the devastating ecologic and economic damage the BTS has inflicted on Guam and how similar events could transpire if the BTS is not properly controlled and it manages to establish a foothold in the CNMI.

4.9 quake strikes off Anatahan

The Emergency Management Office seismograph detected an earthquake early yesterday morning in the vicinity of the Northern Mariana Islands. A statement from EMO indicated that the temblor occurred around 6:16am. According to EMO's geophysical seismic technician Juan T. Camacho, the quake registered 4.9 on the Richter scale with a depth of 57 miles; however, it did not have any apparent significant impact on the island. The quake was felt on Saipan, with several residents heard talking about the incident.

Tinian COVID-19 mass testing going smoothly

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The COVID-19 community testing on Tinian is running smoothly, according to Mayor Edwin P. Aldan.

The testing, which began last Monday on the island, is not mandatory, but will help detect and contain the SARS-COV2 virus, which causes COVID-19. The testing is done at the Tinian Health Center, with the next schedules set on May 26 to 28, Tuesday until Thursday, from 9am to 4pm.

According to Aldan, there were about 50 residents who got tested on Monday, but the numbers went up at the end of the week. Based on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. data, 191 specimens have already been collected on Tinian.

"The first day, we had 52," he said.

He acknowledged that some people are scared of how the test is administered, which involves taking a swab from a person sinus through one's nose but Aldan said he resorted to telling jokes to get people to register and go through the COVID-19 community testing.

The mayor is urging everyone on Tinian to register and get tested, which is free. "I urge the community to please come down to the health center and register, and come down and let's go through this mass testing. It is very important for our community, it's not only a sense of security for the community but also for our family."

Aldan said that he, himself, has already gotten tested last Wednesday, and is now awaiting his result.

To register for testing, visit https://governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing.

MCS brings creative content online

In an effort to help the community during these challenging times, Mount Carmel School is bringing some of its recent creative content online to provide more entertainment and engagement options for everyone staying home as part of social distancing measures. Content includes the most recent film entry in the award-winning *We Drank Our Tears* series, various school spirit initiatives, and a series of TED-style talks from students.

WWII stories on Amazon

Adding to other titles from the school already available on Amazon, *We Drank Our Tears: The Stories of Carmen, Antonieta, and Rosa* are now available for rent on amazon.com. The film dramatizes the experiences of Carmen Acosta, Antoineta Ada, and Rosa Agulto during the World War II battles on Saipan. Produced in collaboration with D&R Visuals as a follow up to stories from Francisco Babauta, Benjamin Abadilla, and Rafael Mafnas, the films were presented last year as part of the CNMI's 75th anniversary commemoration of the end of World War II battles in the islands.

The film was directed by veterans of the school's Theatre Club. AlumKnight and Theatre Club co-adviser Aysia Adele Duenas Santos directed Ada's story; Junior student William Blake Deleon Guerrero directed Acosta's story; and senior student Quincy Chinen directed Agulto's story.

For Santos, telling Ada's story had personal meaning. "To have personally met her and now to have her story turned into a film is such an honor. Not many people know about our history and I'm very glad I was chosen to tell such a powerful story."

Deleon Guerrero feels equally humbled in telling Acosta's story. "I felt honored having the opportunity to tell a story, especially one from my island. It was definitely a new experience, but it was one that allowed me to express myself in ways I only dreamed of." He was also thankful to the cast and crew for their contributions to the film. "I'm glad to have my friends help me accomplish a lifelong dream."

While normally behind the camera or backstage as a manager, Agulto's story was Chinen's directorial debut. "Directing was a new experience for me, because I've always been behind the scenes, managing cast and crew, doing everything to aid the director." However, Chinen appreciated the opportunity to step up. "It was a privilege to work with such a talented group of people to tell a story that, I believed, will teach future generations what families went through in the war."

Keeping school spirit alive

To maintain school spirit during this difficult time, the school also sponsored several online events. Three weeks ago, the school joined the CNMI Public School System and schools across the nation in celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week. Throughout the week, students and their families shared different stories of how teachers have helped them on the school's various social media platforms. The week culminated with a special compilation of appreciation messages from students, which can still be viewed online at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZbb8PaphMYXQChRR9t2BGG4x1zAyK3zX.

After Teacher Appreciation, Week, the school's Student Council sponsored an online Spirit Week that concluded with the school's first ever virtual pep rally. The rally was streamed on the school's Facebook page and YouTube channel and featured songs, dance, and skit submissions from students in grades 7 through 12. The rally was a huge success, engaging thousands of viewers on social media, and be viewed at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-wx3Yk-j4E&t=3s.

The rally also featured a special message from AlumKnights to the Class of 2020, which can be viewed at the following link:mhttps://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZbb8PaphMYVbulWgxHW-WILeY8h0MaT2k.

TED-Ed student talks

Mount Carmel School's TED-Ed Club also streamed its first series of TED-Ed Student Talks on both the school's Facebook page and YouTube Channel. The stream featured a number of students delivering TED-style talks on topics and ideas that they have been working on all school year.

The talks were originally scheduled to be presented to a live audience, but due to mitigation and containment efforts for COVID-19, the event was cancelled. However, the school's TED-Ed Club members explored how they could proceed with the talks by bringing them online. According to TED-Ed Club president and sophomore student Larry Cruz, "These talks allow us students to share our thoughts and ideas to an audience unconfined to the walls of a classroom. … We are more than grateful to be provided with this opportunity that most students are not given. For the past year, we developed our speeches and practiced our talks, which is why it's important that we present these ideas because these are ideas worth spreading."

Following on the success of the first set of TED-Ed Student Talks, the school held another round of streamed talks last Thursday, May 21. Previous talks are already available on the official TED-Ed YouTube channel.

Authorized and supported by TED-Ed, the MCS TED-Ed Club is open to all grade levels and aims to support students and teachers who wish to discuss, debate, and explore ideas. ***(PR)***

MESSAGES OF HOPE KRIZEL TUAZON
One of the six signboards with inspirational messages that the Marianas Visitor's Authority has installed outside the tourism bureau's San Jose office. The signboards were painted by middle school students Soarin Jeong Hyun Oh, Filomenaleonisa Iakopo, and Elizabeth Babauta on reused A-frames from the MVA's annual sporting events.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LILLIAN SALAS LAVEQUE, Deceased.) Civil Action No. 19-0248

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the above entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 4th day of June, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Supreme Court courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

It is further ordered, to avoid any unnecessary delays: (a) those who will be attending in person in the courtroom, COVID-19 protective measures such as social distancing, use of mask and sanitizers, etc. are enforced. (b) those who will be attending via video conference shall file a Request with a Proposed Order. If granted, the party(ies)/attorney(s) shall contact the Deputy Clerk Adeline Tereyama at (670) 235-4261 or via email at adeline.tereyama@nmijudiciary.com to test the video conference system in advance.

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2020.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CONSUELO TAISACAN N AKATSUKASA, Deceased.) Civil Action No. 19-0350

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DEGREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

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Dated this 22nd day of May, 2020.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

FY19 MCAF Project P-9030/PAF189030
ASPI-Cargo Pad with Taxiway Extension and
FY19 MCAF Project P-9040/PAF189040
ASPI-Maintenance Support Facility
Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI

BID DATE: June 2, 2020
@2:00 PM Hawaii Standard Time

Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.
License No. CT-12087
707 Richards Street, Suite 750 Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 457-4500 Fax: (808) 457-4570
Attn: Craig Oshimo (NWHI.Estimating@kiewit.com)

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and request sub-bids from all interested contractors and vendors, including DBE, UDBE, Minority, Small Business, Small Disadvantaged Business, Women-Owned Small Business, Historically Underutilized Business Zoned, Veteran-Owned Small Business, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business.

Plans and specifications may be obtained upon request. Please send email request to NWHI.Estimating@kiewit.com.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-014

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 17, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of the Office of Secretary of Finance Capitol Hill, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **June 8, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **June 11, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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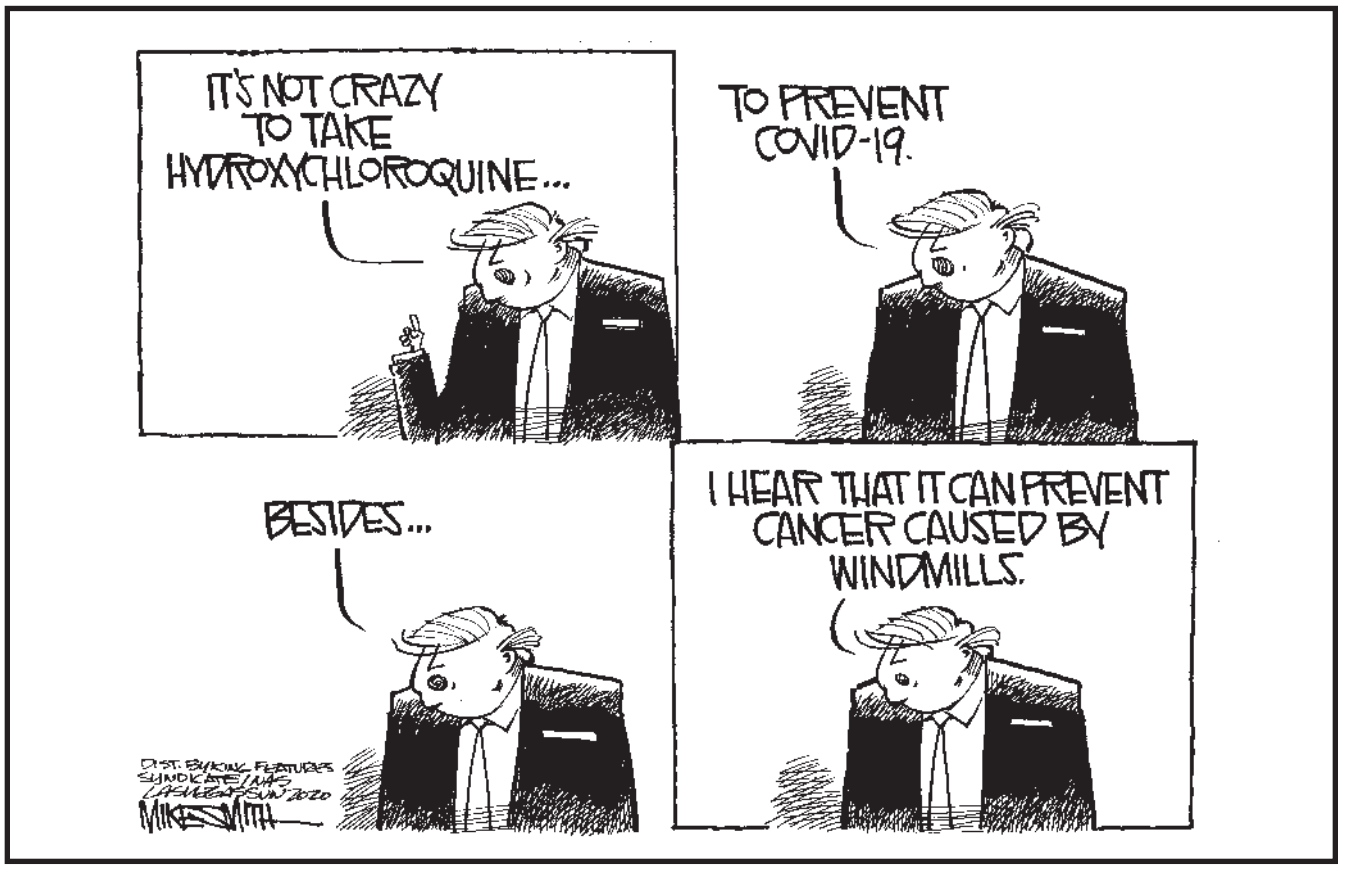

IT'S NOT CRAZY TO TAKE HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE...
TO PREVENT COVID-19.
BESIDES...
I HEAR THAT IT CAN PREVENT CANCER CAUSED BY WINDMILLS.
MIKE SMITH

EDITORIAL

Passengers, wear masks. Airlines, keep it clean. Then we'll fly again

Not many people would choose to ride out the coronavirus pandemic in a crowded tin box. That's why passenger demand for air travel has fallen as much as 90%. Of course, there's also little reason to book a flight right now.

Slowly, the window for flying will reopen, presuming rates of COVID-19 infection continue to decline. Some people will have important personal or professional reasons to board aircraft in the next few months, even without much of a summer vacation season.

They'll fly, if they feel safe.

Do airlines understand this imperative? They do if they agree with Paul Griffiths, chief executive of Dubai Airports, whose employees are dressed head-to-toe in personal protective equipment. "Going through an airport, the whole travel experience, will be as enjoyable as open-heart surgery," he told Bloomberg News. It's a pithy quote, with an important message: Airline travel will return more quickly if airlines, airports and travelers commit to obsessive hygiene.

Carriers and airports need to rethink every step in the flying process. Thermal scans of body temperatures in terminals, frequent disinfecting scrub-downs of cabins and new boarding procedures to reduce passenger crowding in the aisles all appear part of the mix, according to The Wall Street Journal. That seems prudent to us. Cabin air systems are designed to filter out nearly all airborne particles, but there's still potential risk. One cough from the guy in 18C or an accidental touch to a contaminated tray table could lead to viral transmission. Cleaner is safer.

Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that airline crew members and front-line employee should wear face masks or coverings, so we expect that to be the norm. What also needs to be enforced is a mandatory passenger dress code: We wouldn't want to see anyone on our flight without a mask. Airlines are requiring face coverings, but they sound hesitant about enforcement because they don't want confrontations. Here's an American Airlines instruction to employees, per The Washington Post: "Flight attendants are instructed not to escalate the issue if the passenger refuses to wear a face covering and to consider options, such as reseating if other passengers are involved, to defuse the situation."

OK, what? If flight crews relax their guard, they'll end up in situations like a recent Southwest Airlines flight from Phoenix to Las Vegas where, according to a Portland, Ore., TV station, nearly half the passengers weren't wearing masks. Flyers, this is on you. Protect yourselves and everyone else on board. You want to be on an airplane with other people? Keep your face covered.

Our request to airlines during this unsettling period is to give your skittish customers more space. Don't overcrowd

See PASSENGERS on Next Page

Class of 2020: Congratulations, but first an apology

By DAN RODRICKS
The Baltimore Sun

Dan Rodricks is a long-time columnist for The Baltimore Sun.

Dear class of 2020: On behalf of boomers everywhere, I want to apologize for the mess that awaits you—the deadly coronavirus and the resulting economic crisis with massive unemployment. When you started your senior year last fall, who could have predicted this would happen?

Actually, scientists did. The U.S. military did. Our government's intelligence agencies did. They were not certain when it would happen, but there was consensus that a pandemic from a novel virus could occur at any time. The record will show future generations that, at the start of the third decade of the 21st century, the rich and powerful United States—the nation that had helped contain Ebola just a few years earlier—was not only unprepared for threats from a new disease, but our leadership downplayed the possibility right up until the pathogen's arrival.

Sorry, seniors. That was not a great way to start a commencement message. This message is supposed to be congratulatory, celebratory, encouraging and optimistic.

But I think it should be apologetic first. We should have done better. We should have had a better country, a better world by now. My generation came tumbling through a lot of history. We saw a lot and learned a lot. We should have demanded more progress instead of tolerating the backsliding that now has people in other nations expressing pity for us.

A bit of history most relevant to the moment: Baby boomers were born on both sides of the polio epidemic that hit the country hard in the 20th century. Children became infected at an alarming rate. Men and women of the Greatest Generation—your grandparents or great-grandparents—had been through the Great Depression and World War II and, just as they started to enjoy peace and build their families, they feared polio would disable or kill their kids.

But science ultimately prevailed. Doctors and medical scientists developed a polio vaccine, and soon parents lined up their children to get it, and the deal was sealed: Americans believed in medical science, took pride in it.

Today, that seems long ago and far away. Nowadays way too many Americans—prominent ones, even the president—question and attack nearly everything as if it's some liberal conspiracy; they dismiss science as quickly as they dismiss anything else that pushes against their hard prejudices.

Now, I'll be first to tell you that baby boomers, who came of age during the lies of the Vietnam War and Watergate, learned to question authority. That's a good thing. But we did not so easily question science.

There was always sarcasm about eggheads and nerds. But, generally speaking, we did not dismiss the smart people who seemed committed to saving lives, serving the public good and informing our government. They cured diseases. They put a man on the moon. They helped women avoid unwanted pregnancy. They protected us from DDT and other toxins in the environment. They warned us about climate change.

But something happened. Things are upside down today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says there is no link between vaccines and autism, but some anti-vaccine parents insist there is. Some Republicans in Congress have started to accept climate change but have done nearly nothing about it, and some scientists believe a global disaster is already underway.

We have people marching, some with guns, to state capitols and even local government offices to protest the informed and wise actions of governors, mayors and county executives to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. The mothers of the baby boom, the women who fretted about their children getting polio, would be appalled.

Obviously, the country needs to get back to work and to start having fun again. But we have been delivered a horrible moment in human history and, if we want to live to see a better day, our first job is survival. And that means trusting science over politics and prejudices.

I should not have to say these things, but I frequently feel like saying them out loud to young people, starting with my own son and daughter.

I'm sorry. I'm sorry that millions of Americans thought Trump would make a good president. I'm sorry that 40 years of anti-government rhetoric left many of us so vulnerable to disasters financial and natural.

I'm sorry that you have to live with the threat of mass shootings because of our crazy gun culture. I'm sorry that higher education costs so much and that millions of Americans still don't have adequate, affordable health insurance.

I'm sorry about persistent racism, about the grotesque income inequality, about our inability to move more people out of poverty and to resolve the conflicts over immigration.

I'm sorry that more American adults don't have a sense of sacrifice for the common good and that they've twisted the concept of patriotism into a crusade for personal rights—the right to carry a gun, to spend unlimited amounts of cash on politicians who will serve their interests, to refuse to wear a mask in a pandemic.

I'm sorry that we haven't settled our differences as a nation and raised the quality of life for everyone so we could all bear the current crisis better.

We should have made more progress on all fronts by now. My generation should have insisted on it. We came up way short. Please accept this apology, and understand it as a charge to do better.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

C.O.V.I.D.: Connolly Offers Vivid Image Dreams

A 14-line sonnet

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

Visions of a Coronavirus

A host of RNA (ribonucleic acid) activity scowls
in a laboratory's electron microscope's base.

Every era every century every decade has its crowns
Vikings had helmets that sprouted animal horns
Jesus was mocked at death with a crown of thorns
POTUS 45 spoke, then lied about a variety of porns
Various crowns have donned the heads of kings
queens, princes and princesses throughout the world
adorned with jewels, gold, silver and assorted blings
as they sat on thrones with country's flags unfurled

The novel coronavirus COVID-19 to today's date
is sickening and killing thousands around the globe
scientists are studying its novelty and subsequent fate
as international laboratories make a serious probe
peering into electron microscopes they research and
search for a vaccine to give the entire world hope.

COVID 19 - Scared Into My Wits

"But that's the reality of this. I tell people my job isn't to scare you out of your wits; it's to scare you *into* your wits."

—Michael Osterholm, *U.S. epidemiologist speaking about a possible new wave of coronavirus in the fall.*

COVID-19 is sweeping throughout our nation
mixed messages come from our leaders in D.C.
they say one thing then don't follow the situation
45 and V.P. don't wear masks as all see on TV.

Some states will partially open and some won't
social distancing is practiced in public places
some restaurants space tables apart some don't
in grocery stores most wear masks on their faces.

COVID-19 gives many senior citizen homes a hard hit
disease, death, case numbers are sky-high in meat plants
citizens are advised to learn all they can and use their wit
as COVID 19 pandemic does a grievous global dance

The more I learn about it the virus gives me shivering fits
I'm not scared witless but literally scared *into* my wits.

PASSENGERS

From Page 8

your planes, and if you make promises to fly with fewer passengers, keep those promises. This is a tricky situation, we know. Carriers have drastically reduced the number of flights. United Airlines says most flights are less than half full but won't guarantee it. Until June 30, passengers will be allowed to change reservations if a plane fills up. That's a reasonable accommodation, but Delta goes one better. It has limited main cabin occupancy at 60% until at least June 30. Any airline that promises emptier flights throughout the summer and an unoccupied middle seat is more likely to get our business.

We've expressed frustration with major airlines for taking federal bailout money after spending billions on stock buybacks, confident the government would come to the rescue. It did.

The more the airlines can do to give the public confidence, the more likely travelers will consider flying again.

(c)2020 Chicago Tribune

When we have a coronavirus vaccine, will we want to use it?

By CLARENCE PAGE
Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune *Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@chicagotribune.com.*

As the development of a coronavirus vaccine intensifies with the fury of the 1960s race to the moon, a question haunts us Americans: If and when scientists come up with a vaccine, will we want to get it?

I think I would. But what about everyone else?

I wasn't the only American asking that question. A new Reuters/Ipsos poll published Thursday finds a quarter of the public has "little or no interest" in a coronavirus vaccine.

The poll found several reasons for the public's hesitation, including a concern that the record pace by which possible vaccines are being developed could cut corners around safety.

That's understandable. Haste makes waste, as Mom used to say and, like Mom, 84% of respondents said established vaccines for other diseases such as measles are safe for both adults and children.

Among those who said they were "not very" interested in taking the vaccine, 29% said they would be more interested if the FDA approved it.

Yet more than 40% feared that the vaccine could be riskier than the disease. That suggests a problem, since medical experts say about 70% of the population would need to be immune, either through vaccine or by fending off a previous infection, for herd immunity to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus.

The question has special meaning to folks like me who are old enough to remember lining up in grade school to receive one of the early polio shots, shortly after it was approved in 1955.

Polio haunted our lives then. When I was in kindergarten in 1952, more than 57,000 children were stricken with the disease and thousands died in one of the worst polio epidemics in American history.

Everybody knew somebody who had to wear heavy leg braces or use an "iron lung" machine just to breathe because of the paralyzing disease. I had to put off learning how to swim because so many parents, including my own, were wary of swimming pools.

"You can catch polio from the water," my parents said. They had heard that the virus that caused poliomyelitis was transmitted in water, much like we are warned today that coronavirus is transmitted in airborne droplets from sneezing or on unsanitized surfaces.

Unlike today's small but noisy anti-vaccine movement, I recall how eagerly my parents, our neighbors and our local school officials welcomed the vaccine, not to mention the newscasters of that early television era.

Years later I would be surprised to hear my son, who had reached the age that I had been when I had my shot, ask me, "What's polio?" It was a striking illustration of how effectively the plague of polio had been almost erased from the planet. Thank you, Dr. Jonas Salk.

Yet vaccine skepticism endures and it has contributed to a resurgence of diseases we thought were driven to extinction. Add to that a new and unfortunately timely partisan divide on the issue. Almost 1 in 5 Republicans told the Reuters/Ipsos pollsters that they have no interest in a vaccine, which was more than twice the proportion of Democrats who said the same.

And there's a racial divide too. Although black Americans have suffered a disproportionate percentage of COVID-19 deaths, only half said they were somewhat or very interested in a vaccine. This gap may represent community memories of the infamous federal Tuskegee syphilis experiment that deliberately left black men untreated for syphilis.

Anti-vaccine movements and vaccine skepticism are as old as vaccines. But today's misinformation-infested social media environment and the White House's emphasis on swiftness in a vaccine effort called "Operation Warp Speed" unfortunately feeds public fears that safety may be shortchanged.

With that in mind, it's crucial that health officials remember the importance of public education in our cynical age. I am reminded of how Dr. Salk reportedly tested his vaccine on his own family before its release to help reassure the public. That's one way to show that you have confidence in your work.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Memorial Day statement

Today, we take time to honor the lives and deeds of some of our country's and our islands' greatest heroes: the men and women who laid down their lives for freedom and who contributed to the protection of the Marianas.

We join the families of our heroes to pay tribute to their service and remember their sacrifices. While we cannot honor their memory physically together like we usually do, we keep every family in our prayers.

It is our sacred duty to honor and remember our brave heroes, who have given their last full measure of devotion in defense of our country, our freedom, and everything we hold dearly.

We salute every soldier who served to protect our islands, and we offer a renewed call towards friendship and peace. Our fallen heroes have given us the opportunity to make the Marianas better for generations to come.

This is why every year we spend time at Marpi on that sacred ground to remember all they have done for us. Our islands and our country are stronger and safer because of them. We will never forget. We will always remember.

May God bless our Armed Forces, and may God bless the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres
Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios

Looking for long-lost friends

I was a pilot for Island Air (Pacific Island Airways) back in 1979 and I would like to get back in touch with some of those that worked there back then. There is not much to find on Google or other search engines and maybe you can shed some light on my search.

At that time, it was based in Guam, at the Agana International Airport, and we flew three Cessna 402 aircraft. It was owned by Capt. Brandenberg. The chief pilot was Greg Nickerson and another pilot was Brown. On Rota the station agent was Rosie, on Tinian it was Maria, and on Saipan it was Alvin.

During my year as a pilot there all the people were so nice to me and were hard workers. Over the years I lost my address book and have not been able to make contact with anyone. I realize there have been a lot of changes in the years gone by and hopefully all those at Island Air were able to be a part of those changes.

I have since retired from the airlines and fly corporate airplanes.

The internet has a lot of Air Mike and South Pacific Island Airlines but nothing regarding the FAA Part 135 airline "Island Air." If you have a link or know anyone that can help me make contact, I would appreciate it. I have some pictures from back then that may help identify some of my old friends if you need them.

Jim Zock
Montgomery, NY

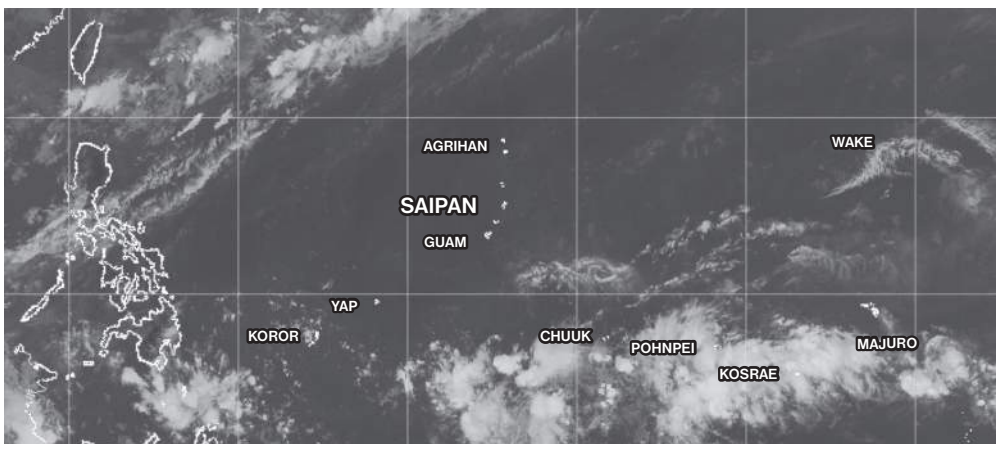
Editor's Note: For those who would like to get in touch with the author, just email the editor at editor@saipantribune.com.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated morning showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89° 79°	89° 79°	89° 79°	89° 79°	89° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:32 AM, MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trade winds and a few sprinkles are present across the Marianas this morning. The buoys are indicating seas between 3 and 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	61° / 55°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	84° / 57°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
New York	Showers	75° / 61°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 61°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	79° / 55°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	77° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	82° / 63°
Salem	Showers	77° / 66°
San Francisco	Sunny	73° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	75° / 55°
Tokyo	Showers	79° / 63°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	80° / 63°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:28 AM	9:52 PM	-
Wednesday	9:25 AM	10:45 PM	-
Thursday	10:22 AM	11:36 PM	-
Friday	11:21 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:24 AM	12:19 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
4:19 AM	LOW TIDE	1.43
8:43 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
4:15 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.13
11:42 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.99

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 1 MAY 21, 2020, 11:30 AM

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
- ***Cashier & Customer Service***
  Monday - Friday (Closed on Holidays)
  7:30 AM - 3:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4282
  Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org, via phone by calling toll free Tel: 1-(855)-729-2282, or at any Bank of Guam, Bank of Saipan, or Bank of Hawaii Branch

CNMI State Medicaid Agency
- ***Eligibility Office & Accounting / Claims***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
  Still accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal / redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp

Department of Land and Natural Resources
- ***Division of Land Registration***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-9987
- ***Division of Agriculture***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 256-3320 / 3321
- ***Division of Fish & Wildlife***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-6000

Office of the Attorney General
- ***Civil & Criminal Divisions***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 237-7500 / 7600

Department of Public Works
- ***Administrative Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 235-9570 / 5818
- ***Building Safety Code Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-2726 / 2296
- ***Technical Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-9828 / 9838
  - ***Highway Branch***
    Monday - Friday
    7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
- ***Energy Division***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4480 / 4481
- ***Roads and Grounds Division***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-9498
- ***Solid Waste Management Division***
  - ***Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill***
    Open all week except Wednesday & Sunday
    7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 322-2745 (Lower Base)
    (670) 322-2761 (Marpi Landfill)

CNMI Public Assistance Office
- ***Available via phone or email only:***
  Mondays - Fridays
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-2411
  Email: info@pa.gov.mp

Office of the Public Defender
- Monday - Friday
  9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-6503

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 2 MAY 21, 2020, 11:30 AM

Department of Finance
- ***Division of Revenue & Taxation***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-1000
- ***ALL OTHER DIVISIONS (Except Customs)***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- ***Division of Customs Services***
  - ***Airport:*** OPEN DAILY
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Seaport:*** Monday - Friday
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Chalan Kanoa Post Office:***
    Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
    Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Department of Public Lands
- ***Cashier accepting payments:***
  Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- ***Available via phone or email:***
  Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54
  For appointments call (670) 234-3751 or email dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Saipan Zoning Office
- ***Available via phone ONLY:***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9661/ 9662/ 9663
  Email: geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp

CNMI 2020 Census
- Monday – Friday
  7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 682-2020
  Email: cnmi@2020census.gov

Department of Public Safety
- ***Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV)***
  - ***Document Drop-Off For Vehicle / Watercraft Registration Renewal***
    Monday - Thursday
    8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
    Tel: (670) 664-9068
  - ***Walk-In For Drivers License***
    Monday - Thursday
    8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
    Tel: (670) 664-9066
- ***Firearms and Records***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (For Walk-Ins)
  Tel: (670) 664-9072
- ***Highway Safety Office***
  Monday - Thursday (For Walk-Ins)
  9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9121 / 9125 / 9131

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- ***Fire Enforcement Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9178

Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs
- Monday – Friday
  7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 488-2200 / 0440 / 0550
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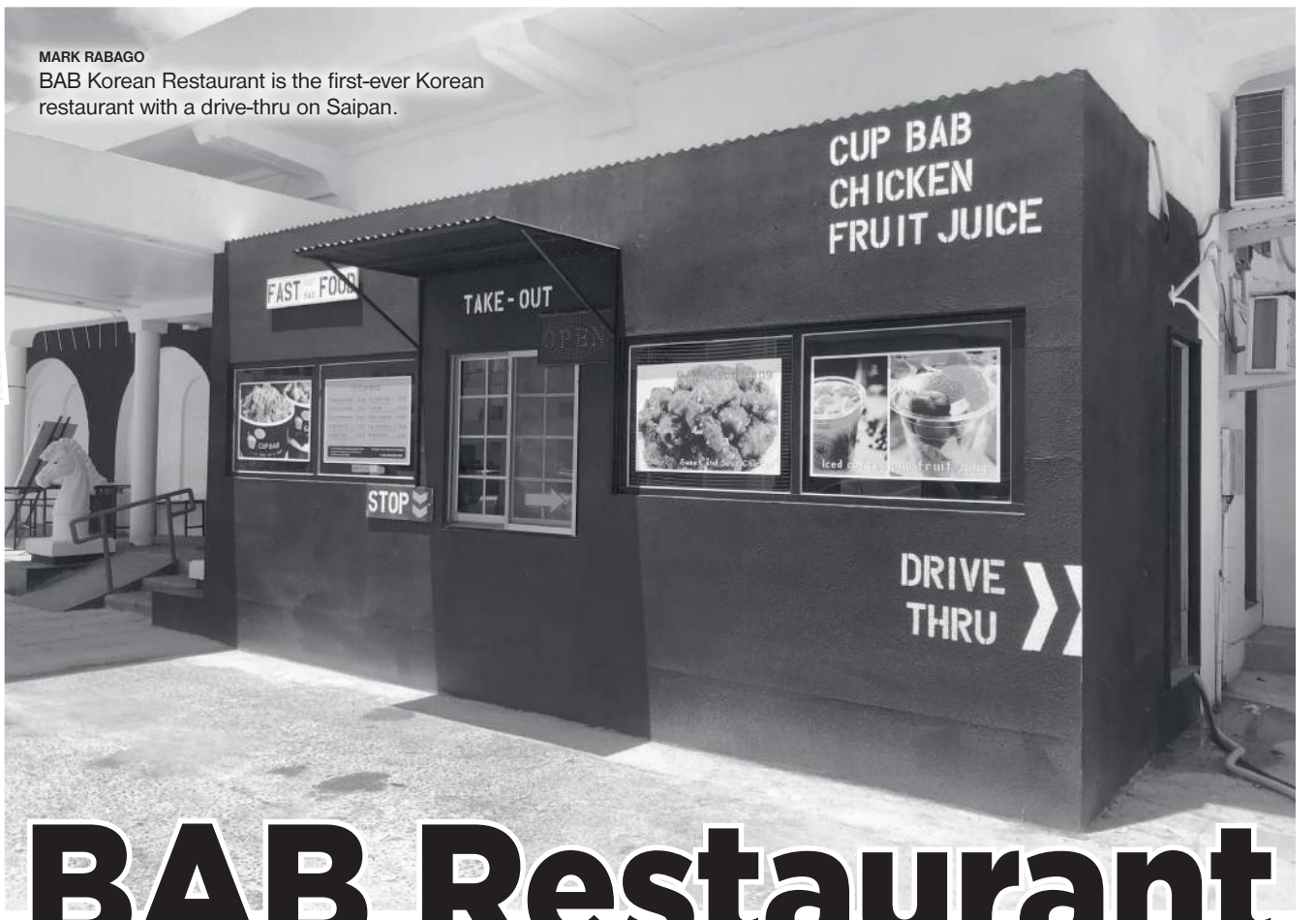
Business

MARK RABAGO
BAB Korean Restaurant is located at the former Caesar's Sauna property along Beach Road in Garapan.



MARK RABAGO
BAB Korean Restaurant is the first-ever Korean restaurant with a drive-thru on Saipan.

BAB Restaurant launches CupBAB

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BAB Korean Restaurant reopened last week with a new drive-thru counter and innovative rice topping offerings it cleverly calls CupBAB.

Restaurant manager Lotesa Ferrer said that BAB Korean Restaurant closed just a little more than a month after it opened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That gave them a chance to brainstorm the kind of food they could serve once they reopen.

"We came up with the idea of rice toppings in a cup—Korean food in a cup. Ours is the first-ever Korean restaurant with drive-thru on Saipan and since 'bab' is rice in Korean, we called our new product CupBAB," she said.

MARK RABAGO
BAB Korean Restaurant's CupBAB offering has 10 items ranging in price from $3 to $7.

Their take-out menu currently has 10 items ranging in price from the $3 mandoo (4 piece soft-fried dumplings) to the $7 combo bab (beef, mandoo, noodles, tofu, lettuce, and rice). In between, customers can enjoy the $5 original bab (pork, noodles, lettuce, rice) or the $6 squid bab (spicy squid, noodles, tofu, lettuce, rice). Those who want it hot can also sample their $5 volcano bab (spicy pork, noodles, lettuce, rice).

Signature drinks like sujeonggwa (Korean cinnamon ginger tea) and Hawaiian iced tea are also available for take-out.

Aside from the new CupBAB menu, BAB Korean Restaurant is still offering take-out platters from their original menu.

"Please try and visit us. The taste and services are still the same but this time in a cheaper and faster way to serve you via our drive-thru window," said Ferrer.

Starting last Monday, BAB Korean Restaurant also started opening for morning take-out. Ferrer said they also deliver for free for a minimum of five orders.

"As a bonus, if a customer has a lot of orders for delivery we give two complimentary items for trial," she said.

BAB Korean Restaurant is located at the former Caesar's Sauna property along Beach Road in Garapan. It is open 6am-10am and 11:30am-5pm. For more information or for pre-orders, call 233-4222 or 483-5500.

Forced to adapt, businesses rethink how they make money

NEW YORK (AP)—Many business owners are changing the way they make money as they attempt to recoup revenue lost to the coronavirus outbreak.

The changes can look subtle; for example, when owners of clothing stores decide to beef up their internet business. But often such adjustments involve an entire rethinking of the business model—the blueprint that encompasses the key aspects of running a company—with significant changes to staffing, technology and inventory.

For many companies, it's a matter of survival, but for others, the changes have been a silver lining amidst the crisis.

When Big Bottom Market, a cafe and food shop in Guerneville, California, closed in mid-March, "I had to take stock of what we had and think about how we could evolve the business," says co-owner Michael Volpatt.

Volpatt started a daily cooking show on Facebook in hopes of drawing customers to Big Bottom's page on the online marketplace Etsy. He succeeded: Daily visits jumped 66% and customers stocked up on merchandise including biscuit mixes, coffee, preserves and T-shirts. That revenue from Etsy covered Big Bottom's monthly rent, utilities and insurance.

The cafe, which gets business from visitors to California's Sonoma wine region, reopened with social distancing steps May 8, selling meals and merchandise at the door. Business is down 80% from its usual pace—the café can normally seat 40. During the week, the cafe's business is mostly from people who live locally, but the weekends bring people from all over the Bay Area.

Volpatt doesn't know when he'll fully reopen the cafe but going forward he expects to get substantial business from the internet. He's even hiring a staffer to help build Etsy sales.

Four months after launching the Velvet Window clothing store in Dallas, Amy Witt was forced to close its doors. She soon realized she'd need to adjust her approach to ensure customers came back when the store reopened.

"The forced closure gave me the opportunity to say, 'what's wrong with my business how do I fix it?'" Witt says.

Before the outbreak, 85% of Witt's business came from shoppers coming into the store. With the shutdown, she realized she needed to be more aggressive with social media to draw shoppers to her website; she needed revenue and to engage with her customers. She taught herself and her staff how to make Velvet Window more visible in internet searches. She picked up new customers, including some outside the Dallas area.

SpaceX's 1st astronaut launch breaking new ground for style

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The first astronauts launched by SpaceX are breaking new ground for style with hip spacesuits, gullwing Teslas and a sleek rocketship—all of it white with black trim.

The color coordinating is thanks to Elon Musk, the driving force behind both SpaceX and Tesla, and a big fan of flash and science fiction.

NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken like the fresh new look. They'll catch a ride to the launch pad in a Tesla Model X electric car.

"It is really neat, and I think the biggest testament to that is my 10-year-old son telling me how cool I am now," Hurley told The Associated Press.

"SpaceX has gone all out" on the capsule's appearance, he said. "And they've worked equally as hard to make the innards and the displays and everything else in the vehicle work to perfection."

The true test comes Wednesday when Hurley and Behnken climb aboard a SpaceX Dragon capsule atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and, equipment and weather permitting, shoot into space. It will be the first astronaut launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center since the last shuttle flight in 2011.

It will also mark the first attempt by a private company to send astronauts into orbit. Only governments—Russia, the U.S., and China—have done that.

The historic send-off deserves to look good, according to SpaceX. It already has a nice ring. Musk named his rocket after the "Star Wars" Millennium Falcon. The capsule name stems from "Puff the Magic Dragon," Musk's jab at all the doubters when he started SpaceX in 2002.

SpaceX designed and built its own suits, which are custom-fit. Safety came first. The cool—or wow—factor was a close second.

"It's important that the suits are comfortable and also are inspiring," explained SpaceX's Benji Reed. a mission director. "But above all, it's designed to keep the crew safe."

The bulky, orange ascent and entry suits worn by shuttle astronauts had their own attraction, according to Behnken, who like Hurley wore them for his two previous missions. Movies like "Armageddon" and "Space Cowboys" stole the orange look whenever actors were "trying to pretend to be astronauts."

On launch day, Hurley and Behnken will get ready inside Kennedy's remodeled crew quarters, which dates back to the two-man Gemini missions of the mid-1960s. SpaceX techs will help the astronauts into their one-piece, two-layer pressure suits.

Hurley and Behnken will emerge through the same double doors used on July 16, 1969, by Apollo 11′s Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins—the Operations and Checkout Building now bears Armstrong's name.

Nation

Memorial Day weekend draws crowds and triggers warnings

AP
Visitors gather on the beach Sunday, May 24, 2020, in Newport Beach, Calif., during the coronavirus outbreak.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—The Memorial Day weekend marking the unofficial start of summer in the U.S. meant big crowds at beaches and warnings from authorities Sunday about people disregarding the coronavirus social-distancing rules and risking a resurgence of the scourge that has killed nearly 100,000 Americans.

Meanwhile, the White House broadened its travel ban against countries hard hit by the virus by saying it would deny admission to foreigners who have recently been in Brazil.

Sheriff's deputies and beach patrols tried to make sure people kept their distance from others as they soaked up the rays on the sand and at parks and other recreation sites around the country.

In the Tampa area along Florida's Gulf Coast, the crowds were so big that authorities took the extraordinary step of closing parking lots because they were full.

On the Sunday talk shows, Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, said she was "very concerned" about scenes of people crowding together over the weekend.

"We really want to be clear all the time that social distancing is absolutely critical. And if you can't social distance and you're outside, you must wear a mask," she said on ABC's "This Week."

In Missouri, people packed bars and restaurants at the Lake of the Ozarks, a vacation spot popular with Chicagoans, over the weekend. One video showed a crammed pool where vacationers lounged close together without masks, St. Louis station KMOV-TV reported.

In Daytona Beach, Florida, gunfire erupted Saturday night along a beachside road where more than 200 people had gathered and were seen partying and dancing despite the restrictions. Several people were wounded and taken to the hospital, authorities said.

"Disney is closed, Universal is closed. Everything is closed so where did everybody come with the first warm day with 50% opening? Everybody came to the beach," Volusia County Sheriff Mike Chitwood said at a Sunday news conference, referring to crowds in the Daytona Beach area.

On Georgia's Tybee Island, the beach was filled with families, bicyclists, beach chairs, games, swimmers and more. On a main drag, people lined the sidewalk at Wet Willie's, a chain bar that sells frozen cocktails. Most stood close together—not nearly 6 feet (2 meters) apart—and none wore masks.

But at a nearby grocery store, staff members handed customers gloves and a number to keep track of how many people were inside at a time. Shoppers had their own masks.

Officials in California said most people were covering their faces and keep their distance even as they ventured to beaches and parks. Many Southern California beaches were open only for swimming, running and other activities.

At New York's Orchard Beach in the Bronx, kids played with toys, and people sat in folding chairs. Some wore winter coats on a cool and breezy day, and many wore masks and sat apart from others.

"Good to be outside. Fresh air. Just good to enjoy the outdoors," said Danovan Clacken, whose face was covered.

The U.S. is on track to surpass 100,000 coronavirus deaths in the next few days, while Europe has seen over 169,000 dead, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that almost certainly understates the toll. Worldwide, more than 5.4 million people have been infected and nearly 345,000 have died.

The New York Times marked the horror by devoting Sunday's entire front page to a long list of names of those who have died in the United States. The headline: "An Incalculable Loss."

Trump's pitch to voters: Trust me, economy will soar in 2021

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump has a new pitch to voters for this fall: Trust me.

As the economy faces a once-in-a-century recession, with more than 38 million people out of work, Trump is increasingly talking up a future recovery that probably won't materialize until after the November election. He's asking voters to look past the pain being felt across the nation and give him another four-year term on the promise of an economic comeback in 2021.

"It's a transition to greatness," Trump says over and over, predicting a burgeoning economy come the fall. "You're going to see some great numbers in the fourth quarter, and you're going to end up doing a great year next year."

His chief economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, echoes the wait-until-next-year sentiment, holding out hope for a "big bang 2021."

It's a delayed-reward tactic Trump was using long before the global pandemic gut-punched the country. He has turned to it with new urgency as the coronavirus has robbed him of the booming economy that was to be the core of his reelection message.

Trump had already pledged to finally release a Republican health care plan after the polls closed—despite having served more than three years in office—along with a postelection tax cut and a "Phase 2" trade deal with China.

Now, Trump is making the case to voters that if he helped bolster the economy once, he can do it again.

"We built the greatest economy in the world," Trump says frequently. "I'll do it a second time."

It's not just next year that will be a mystery to voters on Election Day. Trump and his team have been talking up the fourth quarter—October through December—but economic reports on that period won't be released until 2021. Preliminary figures for the third quarter will be released Oct. 29, days before the Nov. 3 election. And unemployment could still be in double-digit territory by Election Day, White House economist Kevin Hassett and Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston said in television interviews Sunday.

"Unfortunately, I think it's likely to be double-digit unemployment through the end of this year," Rosengren told CBS' "Face the Nation." To bring back the low jobless levels seen at the end of last February, he said it would probably take a vaccine or "other medical innovations that make it much less risky to go out."

Still, Trump and his campaign are hoping they can convince the public that Trump, not Democrat Joe Biden, is the candidate who can turn things around, even as they push the recovery timeline into next year.

"The president has a clear record of building the economy to unprecedented heights before it was artificially interrupted by the coronavirus, and they know he will build it a second time," said Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh.

Economists, however, warn that the "snap back" Trump's advisers have been talking up is unlikely, given the severity of the recession. It will take years for the economy to recover, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Polling data suggests Trump has some work to do to persuade Americans that all will be well next year.

Americans are split on whether they think the economy will improve (41%) or worsen (40%) over the coming year, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

CDC, states' reporting of virus test data causes confusion

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Elected officials, businesses and others are depending on coronavirus testing and infection-rate data as states reopen so that they will know if a second wave of contagion is coming—and whether another round of stay-at-home orders or closings might be needed.

But states are reporting those figures in different ways, and that can lead to frustration and confusion about what the numbers mean. In some places, there have been data gaps that leave local leaders wondering whether they should loosen or tighten restrictions. In others, officials are accused of spinning the numbers to make their states look better and justify reopening.

In a continuing theme for the outbreak in the United States, a lack of federal leadership persists. Even the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been lumping together tests that measure different things.

Such errors render the CDC numbers about how many Americans are infected "uninterpretable," creating a misleading picture for people trying to make decisions based on the data, said Ashish Jha, director of Harvard's Global Health Institute,

"It is incumbent on health departments and the CDC to make sure they're presenting information that's accurate. And if they can't get it, then don't show the data at all," Jha said. "Faulty data is much, much worse than no data."

Officials at the CDC and in multiple states have acknowledged that they combined the results of viral tests, which detect active cases of the virus essentially from the onset of infection, with antibody tests, which check for proteins that develop a week or more after infection and show whether a person has been exposed at some point in the past.

Viral test results should be reported separately, public health experts say. That allows for tracking of how many people have confirmed active infections, the percentage of people testing positive and how those numbers change over time—all crucial for guiding public policy.

Mixing the results makes it difficult to understand how the virus is spreading. It can give the false impression that the rate of positive test results is declining.

Asia

HK police fire tear gas, water cannon at protesters

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong police fired tear gas and a water cannon at protesters in a popular shopping district Sunday, as thousands took to the streets to march against China's move to impose national security legislation on the city.

Pro-democracy supporters have sharply criticized a proposal, set to be approved by China's rubber-stamp parliament this week, that would ban secessionist and subversive activity, as well as foreign interference, in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The pro-democracy camp says the proposal goes against the "one country, two systems" framework that promises Hong Kong freedoms not found in mainland China.

Crowds of demonstrators dressed in black gathered in the Causeway Bay district on Sunday, chanting slogans such as "Stand with Hong Kong," "Liberate Hong Kong" and "Revolution of our times."

The protest was a continuation of a monthslong pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong that began last year and has at times descended into violence between police and protesters.

Police raised blue flags, warning protesters to disperse, before firing multiple rounds of tear gas. They later fired a water cannon at the demonstrators.

At least 180 people were arrested, mostly on charges of unlawful assembly, police said.

They also said that some of the protesters threw bricks and splashed unidentified liquid at officers, injuring at least four members of the police media liaison team. They warned that such behavior is against the law and that police would pursue the matter.

Earlier in the afternoon, prominent activist Tam Tak-chi was arrested during the protest for what police said was unauthorized assembly. Tam said he was giving a "health talk" and was exempt from social-distancing measures that prohibit gatherings of more than eight people.

The bill that triggered Sunday's rally was submitted at the opening of China's national legislative session on Friday. It would bypass Hong Kong's legislature and could allow mainland agencies to be set up in the city, sparking concern that Chinese agents could arbitrarily arrest people for activities deemed to be pro-democracy.

Speaking at an annual news conference during the legislative session, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Sunday that Hong Kong affairs were an internal matter for China, and that "no external interference will be tolerated."

"Excessive unlawful foreign meddling in Hong Kong affairs has placed China's national security in serious jeopardy," Wang said, adding that the proposed legislation "does not affect the high degree of autonomy in Hong Kong."

"It does not affect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong residents. And it does not affect the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors in Hong Kong," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has called the proposal "a death knell for the high degree of autonomy" that Beijing promised the former British colony when it was returned to China in 1997.

Chris Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong prior to its handover to China, lamented what he called "a new Chinese dictatorship."

"I think the Hong Kong people have been betrayed by China, which has proved once again that you can't trust it further than you can throw it," Patten said in an interview with The Times of London.

Patten is leading a coalition of at least 204 international lawmakers and policymakers who are decrying the proposed legislation. In a statement, the coalition called it a "flagrant breach" of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, a 1984 treaty that promised Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy even after the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

North Korea's Kim holds meeting on bolstering nuclear forces

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un convened a key military meeting to discuss bolstering the country's nuclear arsenal and putting its armed forces on high alert, state media reported Sunday, in Kim's first known public appearance in about 20 days.

Kim earlier this month quelled intense rumors about his health by attending a ceremony marking the completion of a fertilizer factory in what at the time was his first public appearance in 20 days. But he hadn't made another public appearance for around 20 more days until the North's official news agency said Sunday that he led a meeting of the Central Military Commission of the ruling Workers' Party.

"Set forth at the meeting were new policies for further increasing the nuclear war deterrence of the country and putting the strategic armed forces on a high alert operation," the Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, said, without mentioning when the meeting was held.

The meeting discussed increasing the capabilities for deterring "the threatening foreign forces," the report said, an apparent reference to the U.S. and South Korean militaries.

Kim, who heads the military commission, also used the meeting to promote the ranks of dozens of army generals and others in an apparent effort to boost military morale. Among them is military chief Pak Jong Chon, who was made a vice marshal, and Ri Pyong Chol, a senior party official in charge of weapons development, who became a deputy head of the military commission, according to KCNA.

Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said that Kim's "public appearances have more to do with domestic politics than international signaling, but it is interesting for him to reappear in state media about the time the world started noticing he'd been gone for three weeks again."

China denies using virus to grow presence in South China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—A look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple territorial disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons. The waters are a major shipping route for global commerce and are rich in fish and possible oil and gas reserves.

CHINA DISMISSES CLAIMS OF EXPLOITING VIRUS CONCERNS

China's foreign minister is dismissing claims that the country is exploiting the coronavirus outbreak to expand its footprint in the South China Sea, labeling such accusations as "sheer nonsense."

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters at a news conference on Sunday that China was cooperating closely on anti-virus efforts with Southeast Asian countries, several of whom have overlapping territorial claims with China in the strategically vital waterway.

While China has long been stepping up its presence in the region, Wang said other countries, implying the United States and its allies, have been creating instability with military flights and sea patrols.

"Their ill-intentioned and despicable moves are meant to sow discord between China and (Southeast Asian countries) and undermine the hard-won stability in the region," Wang said.

CHINA RAISES DEFENSE BUDGET DESPITE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

China says it will increase its defense spending by 6.6% in 2020, despite a major downturn in the country's economic growth due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The increase is the lowest in years, but will still allow China to expand its ability to enforce its territorial claims in the South China Sea and grow its military presence in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean. Another key priority is maintaining a credible threat against Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy China considers its own territory to be brought under its control by military force if necessary.

Double-digit percentage increases of just a few years ago that have given China the second biggest defense budget in the world behind the U.S. Spending this year will total 1.3 trillion yuan ($180 billion), according to the website of the National People's Congress, the ceremonial parliament that opened its annual session Friday.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES CUTTING DEFENSE SPENDING

A study says Southeast Asian countries are cutting defense spending as a result of the economic crisis brought on by the coronavirus outbreak, potentially opening up room for China to further assert its claims in the region.

Aristyo Rizka Darmawan, a maritime security expert at the University of Indonesia, writes that slashing defense spending is seen as a relatively easy way to cut costs when countries are facing pressure on their budgets.

"Indonesia, for example, has announced it will slash its defense budget this year by nearly US$588 million. Thailand has likewise reduced its defense allocation by $555 million. Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines all face similar pressure," Darmawan wrote in the online journal of the Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank. "Less defense spending will invariably mean less patrols at sea."

China has maintained its presence in the South China Sea throughout the virus outbreak. Recent frictions include Chinese ships shadowing Malaysian mineral exploration operations and the sinking of a Vietnamese fishing boat by a Chinese maritime security vessel.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

†RICHARD MICHAEL JONES

Richard Jones was born on May 27, 1947 in Pasadena, California and died after a long illness at his home on Saipan on May 12, 2020.

He lives in the loving memory of:
His wife and companion of 50 years FAYE CROZAT
His brothers CRAIG JONES and MARK JONES

His in laws:
DAVID AND FAYTHE WISEMAN
TONDALAYA AND RON GILLESPIE
CLAUDETTE AND JIM SECHLER
MARINO AND PAT CROZAT

And in the hearts of friends, companions, and colleagues that he gathered in the many places that he made his home. Richard will be laid to rest in a private ceremony of sea burial on May 30, 2020. Condolences may be sent to his wife Faye at fayecrozat@gmail.com.

World

Europeans soak up sun but virus travel rules a mishmash

BERLIN (AP)—Europeans soaked up the sun where they could, taking advantage of the first holiday weekend since coronavirus restrictions were eased, while governments grappled with how and when to safely let in foreign travelers to salvage the vital summer tourist season.

Overjoyed French families flocked to the Grande Motte beach on the Mediterranean shore Sunday, swimming and sunbathing in areas specially marked to keep a distance from others. Cordons of ropes and wooden stakes were neatly spaced out across the sand, giving each visitor or group an eight-square-meter (85-square-foot) space of their own.

Online reservations are required though free of charge, and there is already a two-day waiting list. Those lucky enough to get a spot for a four-day weekend relished the opportunity, frolicking beneath a summer-like sun. Elsewhere in France, beaches have also reopened, but only for individual sports or walks, and visitors weren't allowed to sit or lie down.

Yet even as social distancing rules spread families and friends out Sunday across beaches and parks, the virus remained a constant threat. Europe has seen over 169,000 dead, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Across the continent, a mishmash of travel restrictions appears to be on the horizon, often depending on where travelers live and what passports they carry. Germany, France and other European countries aim to open their borders for European travel in mid-June, but it isn't clear when intercontinental travel will resume.

Spain, one of the worst-hit countries in the pandemic and also one of the world's top destinations for international travelers, says it won't reopen for foreign tourists until July. To boost the economy, the country's leader has encouraged Spaniards to "start planning their vacations" for late June inside Spain.

"Come July, we will allow the arrival of foreign tourists to Spain under safe conditions," Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said. "We will guarantee that tourists aren't at risk and that they don't represent a risk (to Spain)."

For now, travel between Spain's provinces isn't allowed and many other restrictions remain—although on Monday, residents in worst-hit Madrid and Barcelona will be able to join the rest of the country in dining outdoors at bars and restaurants, which can offer only 50% of their usual tables.

Also Monday, local sunbathers and swimmers will be permitted in some of Spain's coastal provinces. The number of beach-goers will be limited and umbrellas must be at least four meters (13 feet) apart.

In Germany, domestic tourists will be allowed to return Monday to Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania state in the northeast—home to the country's Baltic Sea coast—and to hotels in Berlin, the popular capital.

But tourism campaigns will require a new approach.

"We don't think people want closely packed big-city bustle at the moment," Burkhard Kieker, the chief of visitBerlin, told RBB Inforadio. His agency has launched a campaign showing "how much green space and how much water there is" in Berlin.

In fight against virus, South Africa expects a long wait

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—With her winning smile and outgoing nature, Fino Dlamini was a natural to succeed in South Africa's booming tourism industry.

Her bicycle tours of Soweto took visitors to historic sites, including the homes of Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and to restaurants where they could meet South Africans. The tourists and locals would quickly connect over shared interests in sports or TV shows, forming instant bonds that were "magic," she said.

Business was good in January and February, and projections for the rest of 2020 were excellent. Then the coronavirus brought everything to an abrupt halt. Dlamini was confined to her small home under a strict lockdown, with few options for earning money.

Millions of other South Africans share in the same misfortune. The country with the continent's most developed economy also has its highest number of confirmed infections—more than 22,000, representing 20% of Africa's total. And because the disease may not hit its peak for four more months, leaders expect to spend an especially long time balancing the risks to public health with the economic activity essential to the national welfare.

"The risk of a massive increase in infections is now greater than ever," South African President Cyril Ramaphosa told the nation Sunday night even as he announced a further loosening of the lockdown starting June 1 to allow some 8 million more people to return to work.

While South Africa has not seen the explosion of virus infections that emerged in Europe, cases "have now started to rise sharply," Ramaphosa warned, with one-third of cases recorded in the past week alone.

Health experts have suggested that a contributing factor in the lower number in cases is the country's youthful population, with just 3% of people above the age of 60. Africa's small elderly population may help explain why the disease is spreading relatively slowly across the continent.

South Africa is still in the early stages of the pandemic, leading health experts to predict the peak could come as late as August or September. A surge of cases in Cape Town suggests that city might reach its maximum near the end of June. The forecasts portend a lengthy wait to resume normal activity.

Other African countries appear to be on a similar trajectory. Forty-three of the continent's 54 nations have imposed containment measures, including lockdowns, bans on public gatherings, school closures and curfews.

The lockdown that began March 27 in South Africa is increasing tensions in Soweto, said Dlamini, who closed her tourism business.

"People are destitute and feeling desperate," Dlamini said. "It's heartbreaking and scary. I tell friends that we must get through this hard time, that a vaccine will be found and we can get back to business. ... But right now, it's hard."

With 25 bicycles, a vehicle and a trailer sitting idle, Dlamini decided to move into something entirely new. She is now selling meat products from her car to Soweto residents. "Ribs, pork trotters, beef bones—these are all popular," she said. "People are calling me for repeat orders, so business is looking good."

Five weeks into the lockdown, South Africa began a gradual easing on May 1, allowing selected mines, factories and businesses to reopen with up to 30% of employees.

Overdrive

The gas pump. (DREAMSTIME/TNS)

Motormouth: How to keep gas 'fresh'

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q: I have a hybrid Ford Fusion. Most of the miles driven are on the battery, and I use very little gasoline. Sometimes the gas is in the tank for almost six months until the tank is refilled. Is there anything I should add to the tank to keep the gasoline "fresh?"

A: The fuel will be okay for six months or so, but you may want to add a stabilizer such as Sta-Bil for your peace of mind.

Q: I have a 2017 Ford Fusion hybrid. I took the car to Ford for a 60K service. I was told that the lug nuts were swollen. The technician told me that Ford charges $240 for replacement or I could go to a parts store and buy them for about $40. I went online to check if there was a recall and found a class action suit. I tried to get the lug nuts off myself and was unable to. I also sent an email to the local dealership, but no response. I may wait until next service to have this fixed or should I try something else?

A: Ford has been using steel lug nuts with chrome plated covers. Corrosion develops between the cap and nut. Get rid of them. I agree that aftermarket lug nuts would be a good choice, but be careful that they, too, are not the sandwich style. Dorman is a brand I trust. Unless there is a need to remove the tires, wait until your next scheduled service. I wouldn't waste my time on the class action suit.

Q: I purchased a used 2013 Cadillac SRX a couple of years ago with super low mileage. About a year or so after the purchase I discovered that the vehicle had no spare tire. I inquired about it at the dealership I bought it at, and they said that no spare tire was provided for that year and model. I was told to have a can or two of flat tire repair foam. I can't find anything searching the internet. Looking for any suggestions about a possible spare tire kit.

A: As with most carmakers, spare tires are becoming extinct. Instead, you get a kit containing a pump and some tire sealer. The SRX originally came with an electric pump located in the stowage area, but no sealer. Pump and sealer kits are available at most auto parts stores and big box retailers.

Q: I am a car guy and love reading your articles. Regarding the person whose flip phone would not pair with his Subaru, some phones can be paired by using a cable and once paired in that manner will work via Bluetooth. I did this with a very old phone that would not pair via Bluetooth. Thought I would pass that along as something to try.

A: Cool idea and worth passing along. I love my readers.

Q: I have a 1985 Mercedes SL with Bundt-style rims. Those cars give off a lot of brake dust and it is difficult to get anything in all the crevices. My son worked for a dealership in the summer during high school washing cars. Purple Power melts the brake dust. Be sure not to get it on the paint. Ammonia-free Windex also works well.

A: I have used Purple Power in professional garages as well as my own, but never on an automobile. It is powerful stuff. I advise users to read the label. Thanks for the tip.

Life & Style

Japanese pro-wrestler in popular reality show dies at 22

TOKYO (AP)—Hana Kimura, a Japanese pro-wrestler who appeared in the latest series of the popular reality show "Terrace House," has died. She was 22.

Her organization Stardom Wrestling confirmed Kimura's death on Saturday. It said details are still largely unknown and the group was cooperating in an investigation, and asked her fans to be respectful.

"We are very sorry to report that our Hana Kimura has passed away," the organization said in a statement.

Kimura was found dead at her home, Japanese media said.

Kimura became the target of massive bullying on social media over her role on the "Terrace House" show on Netflix, which involves three men and three women temporarily living together at a shared house in Tokyo. The show was temporarily suspended due to the coronavirus.

In her latest Instagram posting Friday, she published a photo of herself and her cat, with a message saying "Goodbye." Another posting carried a message "I love you, live long and happy. I'm sorry."

Her death has triggered a wave of messages on social media against anonymous bullying and hateful messages.

Kimura, whose mother Kyoko was also a famous pro-wrestler, performed at a sold-out Madison Square Garden event by Japan Pro-Wrestling and U.S. Ring of Honor.

Author Murakami DJs 'Stay Home' radio show to lift spirits

In this Nov. 3, 2018, file photo, Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami signs his autograph on his novel "Killing Commendatore" during a press conference at Waseda University in Tokyo. AP

TOKYO (AP)—Acclaimed Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami, hosting a special radio show from home, painted a brighter side of the world with his favorite music, and said the fight against the coronavirus is a challenge in figuring out ways to help and care for each other.

The 71-year-old, known for bestsellers such as "A Wild Sheep Chase" and "Windup Bird Chronicle," said Friday he hoped the show would "blow away some of the corona-related blues."

Murakami opened the two-hour late night show "Murakami Radio Stay Home Special" with "Look for the Silver Lining" by the Modern Folk Quartet, followed by 18 other songs, selected from classical to jazz, pop and rock. Their common thread: smile, sunshine, rainbow, birthday memories and other happy sides of life.

Murakami said comparing the fight against the coronavirus to a war, as politicians often do, is inappropriate. "It's a challenge for us to figure out how we can share our wisdom to cooperate, help each other and keep balance. It's not a war to kill each other but a fight of wisdom to let us all live," he said. "We don't need enmity and hatred here."

Music serves as an important motif in Murakami's stories. An avid listener and collector of music, he has also written books on the topic and has a library of records in his study, where Friday's program was prerecorded.

Murakami has hosted his "Murakami Radio" every two months since August 2018 on Tokyo FM. The station said Friday's show was Murakami's idea to cheer up those who are under stress, living under a coronavirus state of emergency still in place in parts of Japan, including Tokyo.

Murakami began writing while running a jazz bar in Tokyo after graduating from university. Following his 1979 debut novel "Hear the Wind Sing," the 1987 romance "Norwegian Wood" became his first bestseller, establishing him as a young literary star. Recent hits include "1Q84" and "Killing Comnendatore."

A perennial contender for the Nobel Prize in literature and a social recluse, Murakami said he has worked from home for years and the lifestyle has little changed, though "the corona situation" did affect him in many ways, possibly an inspiration for his future work.

Murakami has written stories inspired by events that have violently shaken the society, including the 1995 Tokyo subway gassing by an apocalyptic cult and the deadly quake in Kobe, where he grew up.

Morgan Wallen arrested after ejection from Nashville bar

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country music singer Morgan Wallen apologized Sunday following his weekend arrest on public intoxication and disorderly conduct charges.

Wallen, 27, was arrested Saturday night after he was kicked out of Kid Rock's bar in downtown Nashville, news outlets reported.

Wallen said on Twitter that he and some friends were "horse-playing" after a few bar stops.

"We didn't mean any harm, and we want to say sorry to any bar staff or anyone that was affected," Wallen tweeted. "Thank you to the local authorities for being so professional and doing their job with class. Love y'all."

Wallen's hits include "Whiskey Glasses" and "Chasin' You." He competed on "The Voice" in 2014 and co-wrote songs for Jason Aldean and Kane Brown.

Sister is jealous of the happy life woman made for herself

DEAR ABBY: I recently lost a lot of weight and finally felt confident enough to start dating. I met a wonderful man I'll call "Teddy." We've been together for eight months, and I can see a future with him. He has some quirks with intimacy that he's working on and a few odd habits he is trying to break. I have my own eccentricities as well, but we are doing it together.

The problem is my sister. Ever since I started losing weight and trying to improve myself, she has become incredibly jealous. She has taken to making backhanded comments as often as she can. We had a huge fight where we didn't talk for two months because she thought I had "changed too much." The real reason was I wouldn't let her borrow a super expensive dress of mine.

I used to spend every weekend at her house hanging out with her. I would do her grocery shopping, lend her anything she wanted and defer to her because I was lonely. But now I spend most weekends with Teddy generally enjoying my life. She seems bitter that I no longer let her walk over me like a doormat. She keeps saying I should break up with Teddy so I can prioritize her again, and she tries to start fights between Teddy and me.

Abby, my sister is married and has a kid. She doesn't need me around so she won't be lonely. I don't want to cut her off because I love my nephew and would like to be part of his life. I also don't want to have to choose between my family and having a life that doesn't revolve around them. Please help me

— CHANGING MY LIFE

DEAR CHANGING: If your description is accurate, you exist in your sister's universe only to fulfill her needs. That she would attempt to sabotage your relationship with Teddy is shameful. It should not be necessary to choose between Teddy and your family. What you must do is establish firm boundaries with her, enforce them and not knuckle under to the pressure she is exerting.

DEAR ABBY: I found $17 in the pocket of an old coat (great feeling -- it felt like free money!) and used it to buy myself some fast food. My fiancee is upset (which I think is uncalled for) that I didn't get her anything. That restaurant is expensive, and it's hard to buy two meals for that price. Plus, it was my money.

I think I should be allowed to spend money I find, especially since it was in my coat. Unfortunately, she didn't get any dinner that night. It has been a week now, and she's still upset with me about it. I never get anything for myself, and I feel I deserved a treat.

When I told her that night if she wanted dinner she should have looked for her own $17 in a coat, she threw my Xbox controller at me. It missed. It hit the wall and broke. Now I have to search through all my pockets because those controllers cost a lot more than $17.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

— QUARANTINED IN INDIANA

DEAR QUARANTINED: And your question is? This is how you treat your fiancee? The least you could have done was get her a side of fries to eat with whatever was in the fridge as a main course. If you and this girl are still together, it's time for some serious apologies. On the plus side, now that the Xbox is history, you will have more time to work on your relationship.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

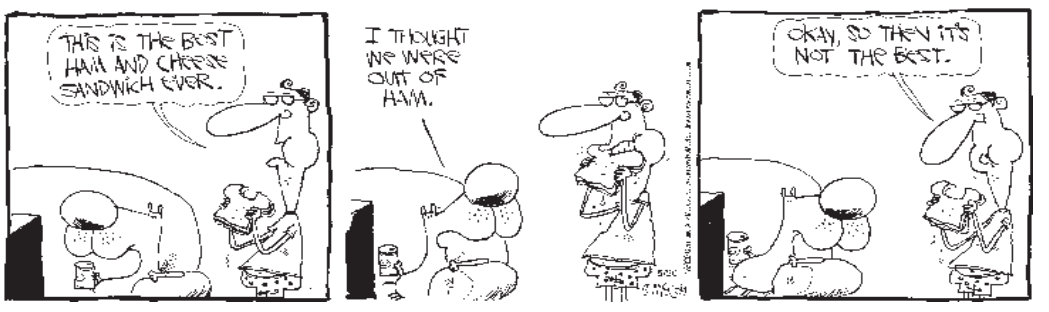
GARFIELD, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE MOUSE PROBLEM?!
A RESTRAINING ORDER?
THAT'S IT?
AND THIS BILL FOR $500 FROM MY ATTORNEY
JIM DAVIS 5-26

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

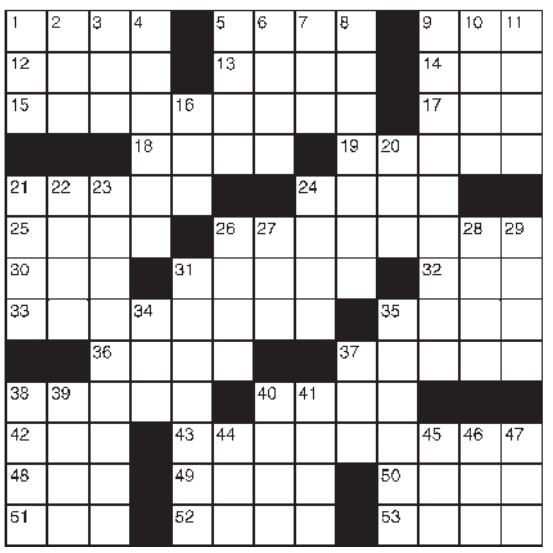
ACROSS
1 Repair
5 Injure
9 Choose
12 Downwind
13 Words to Brutus
14 Meadow
15 Former sweethearts
17 Cotillion celeb
18 Congers
19 Talks like Sylvester
21 Tine
24 Pres., to the military
25 "— Lang Syne"
26 Set in motion
30 Nap site
31 Innocents
32 Flamenco cry
33 Tall cupboards
35 Complain
36 Big fusses
37 Water trench
38 Photographer Adams
40 Entryway
42 Hogwash
43 Veterans
48 St. crosser
49 Capricorn
50 Pakistan's language
51 Soap unit
52 Vacillate
53 500 sheets

DOWN
1 Chinese chairman
2 Right angle
3 Homer's neighbor
4 Stand up for
5 Make well
6 $ dispensers
7 Numbered rd.
8 Cotton fabrics
9 Traditional
10 Incubator noise
11 Folder features
16 Pants part
20 Business mag
21 Sunscreen additive
22 Contrite one
23 Michelangelo, for one
24 Poolroom sticks
26 Rock drummer Ulrich
27 Rushmore face
28 Mideast airline
29 Contradict
31 High school science course
34 Praise in verse
35 Speak softly
37 "... grace of God —"
38 Basra resident
39 PBS science show
40 Crucial time
41 Director Preminger
44 Brit's restroom
45 Before
46 Vitamin stat
47 Bottom line

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	E	O	W	■	M	A	C	■	P	A	R	E
F	P	I	I	F	M	F	R	A	■	F	M	T
I	I	M	F	R	I	C	K	■	I	I	M	A
■	■	■	K	I	N	■	E	R	O	D	E	S
C	O	A	L	S	■	T	W	A	S	■	■	■
O	P	R	Y	■	S	C	A	S	■	C	K	■
B	E	G	■	A	T	A	L	E	■	H	E	S
■	C	O	W	■	I	C	K	■	■	E	N	S
■	■	■	A	■	P	H	■	A	A	R	O	N
T	U	R	N	I	P	■	I	S	M	■	■	■
A	R	O	D	■	L	I	P	S	■	I	C	K
R	I	S	E	■	E	N	S	N	A	R	E	S
T	S	A	R	■	S	A	O	■	M	E	N	U

Yesterday's answer 5-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Helena Bonham Carter, 54; Lenny Kravitz, 56; Pam Grier, 71; Stevie Nicks, 72.

Happy Birthday: Aim to stabilize situations that have been causing confusion and uncertainty in your life. How you go about your business will determine the type of people you attract. Use your time wisely, pick up information, learn a new skill and prepare for a brighter future. Discipline and hard work will lead to expansion as well as personal success. Your numbers are 10, 18, 23, 26, 32, 34, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Address a pending situation before you let your emotions take over. A practical approach to the way you do things will ease stress. Start small and build slowly, and you will be happy with the results. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make a personal change that will lift your spirits. Address a sensitive issue if it will improve a relationship you have with a friend or relative. Diversify, use your skills differently or develop a talent you've been ignoring. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stay in touch with friends and relatives. The information passed along will help you understand something about your personality and beliefs that you've questioned in the past. An emotional adjustment will make you happy and help you move forward. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22*): Be creative, and add some zip to your work. How you present what you have to offer will encourage others to up their game. Be the one to make a difference, and get the ball rolling. The payoff will be worthwhile. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-August 22):* Reach out to someone who has the expertise, and what you need to push forward with your plans will be granted. Refuse to give anyone the upper hand or a chance to make you look bad. Finish what you start. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(August 23-September 22):* Proceed with caution. Make sure everyone is taking care of his or her responsibilities. Getting along with those you live or work with will be necessary if you want to be successful. Anger won't solve anything, but hard work will. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll have trouble deciding how best to spend your time. This is not the time to let someone dictate what you should do next. Consider what you enjoy and do well, and put your all into your personal success. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Let experience be your teacher. Dig deep and question everything. Personal growth will lead to new beginnings. Let go of the past, and ease into the future with optimism and enthusiasm. Follow your heart and creative dreams. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen to your heart and to those you know and trust. If you let an outsider meddle in your affairs, you will upset someone who brings out the best in you. Choose and treat your friends and partners with care. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Share your thoughts and feelings with someone close to you. Together you will come up with a plan that will help you bring about progressive changes to the way you live and how you deal with everyday challenges. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A healthy routine is a smart decision. Personal improvements will lift your spirits. Don't buy into someone's plan; do what works best for you, and you'll surpass your expectations. Trust and believe in yourself, and live life your way. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(February 19-March 20):* False information will throw you off guard. Ask questions, and be prepared to do your own thing if something you hear doesn't sound right or financially sound. If someone disappoints you, walk away; arguing will only make matters worse. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, affectionate and creative. You are disciplined and charismatic.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8			9			6	
7		9			4	3		2
		2				5		
	7		2		1			
3				7				1
			6		5		4	
		7				9		
5		8	4			1		6
	4			8			7	

Difficulty Level ★★

5/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	1	7	4	8	9	5	6	2
8	2	9	6	7	5	4	1	3
6	4	5	2	1	3	8	9	7
7	3	8	1	9	4	6	2	5
4	9	6	7	5	2	1	3	8
1	5	2	8	3	6	7	4	9
5	7	3	9	4	1	2	8	6
2	8	1	3	6	7	9	5	4
9	6	4	5	2	8	3	7	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

EUROPE'S AGE OF SAIL **Solution: 11 letters**

M	G	N	O	L	A	V	A	N	T	R	A	D	E	A
M	O	A	V	O	T	S	I	R	C	E	N	I	P	K
L	R	F	E	A	L	I	N	A	M	E	E	Z	O	C
S	K	O	V	T	S	A	O	C	Z	H	E	L	R	E
A	O	R	T	U	C	K	D	Z	S	D	U	O	F	D
O	O	C	T	S	A	M	I	P	N	S	F	L	E	R
M	B	E	A	K	K	M	S	E	O	I	O	L	L	A
A	A	C	R	E	W	U	N	L	L	R	O	R	J	O
R	G	R	E	E	E	E	L	I	E	R	T	O	C	B
T	A	L	C	T	M	A	P	N	A	Z	A	B	S	A
I	V	A	A	O	R	E	C	V	F	O	P	A	D	R
N	I	M	R	G	S	I	L	N	A	N	I	D	E	M
H	L	D	E	A	A	A	W	A	R	L	H	C	M	A
O	E	S	I	U	L	L	U	C	A	S	S	E	R	D
P	S	A	N	T	A	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	A	A

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Aboard, Alvaro, Armada, Armed, Aviles, Bazan, Beak, Book, Captain, Clara, Coast, Crew, Cristovao, Cross, Deck, Filipe, Fleet, Florencia, Force, Hull, Joao, Keel, La Galga, Large, Long, Lucas, Luis, Manila, Marcos, Mast, Mateus, Medina, Mizzen, Naval, Pedro Menendez, Pine, Port, Rafael, Role, Rope, Sail, Santa, Sao Martinho, Ship, Sidonia, Storm, Trade, Tuck, War

Yesterday's Answer: Coming of Age

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Tiger, Peyton win TV charity match as good as real thing

AP
Tiger Woods lines up a putt, while Peyton Manning looks on during The Match: Champions for Charity on Sunday, May 24, 2020, at Medalist Golf Club in Hobe Sound, Florida.

FLORIDA (AP)—Tom Brady delivered the shot of the match that made it easy to forget the rest of his swings. Tiger Woods didn't miss a fairway and earned a small measure of revenge against Phil Mickelson.

The PGA Tour is set to return in just over two weeks, and it has a tough act to follow.

In the second and final charity match that brought live golf to TV, this exhibition was as entertaining as the real thing.

Woods lagged a long birdie putt close enough that his partner, Peyton Manning, didn't have to putt. That secured a 1-up victory over Mickelson and Brady in "The Match: Champions for Charity."

The goal was to raise $10 million or more for COVID-19 relief funds, and online donations sent money climbing toward about twice that much.

This made-for-TV exhibition would have worth pay-per-view, the model Woods and Mickelson used for a $9 million winner-take-all match in Las Vegas over Thanksgiving weekend in 2018 that Mickelson won in a playoff under lights. It felt forced, lacked banter and turned out to free because of technical issues.

Throw in two NFL greats in Brady and Manning, and this allowed viewers to ride along for 18 holes at Medalist Golf Club among four of the biggest stars in sport.

Justin Thomas pitched in as an on-course reporter, bringing a mixture of humor and insight with the right amount of words.

Woods and Manning took the lead on the third hole and never trailed, building a 3-up lead in fourballs on the front nine, with Manning making two birdies (one was a net par).

Brady, whose six Super Bowl titles are more than any NFL quarterback in history, took a beating on social media and in the broadcast booth from Charles Barkley, who twice offered $50,000 of his own money toward charity if Brady just hit the green on a par 3. He missed so far right it would be comparable to a pass that landed three rows into the stands.

New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton weighed in on Twitter, noting Brady signing as a free agent with Tampa Bay by saying he liked the "Florida" Brady much better.

Brooks Koepka offered $100,000 if Brady could just make a par.

One shot shut everyone up.

Never mind that Brady had to take a penalty drop before getting back to the fairway on the par-5 seventh. With his fourth shot, with Barkley needling him relentlessly, Brady's shot landed beyond the pin and spun back into the cup.

"Shut your mouth, Chuck," said Brady, whose microphone piece dangled off the back of his pants.

Woods still thought he won the hole with a 25-foot eagle putt that instead spun hard off the back of the lip. All that, and they ended up halving the hole.

Donations for COVID-19 relief funds kept piling up, and the entertainment didn't stop even as the rain returned. It caused a 45-minute delay at the start, and as Woods said on the practice range, "I don't normally play in conditions like this."

Mickelson brought out his "Tiger Slayer" putter that he used to shoot 64 at Pebble Beach in 2012, the last time they were in the final group on the PGA Tour. Woods shot 75 that day. It didn't help Lefty with a few critical birdie putts to square the match, though he rolled in a 15-foot par putt to stay 1 down with two to play.

The back nine was modified alternate shot—all players hit tee shots, and it was alternate shot from there. It was key for the quarterbacks to find the fairway for the pros to hit shots into the green, and Brady came through until the 18th.

Woods was playing for the first time since Feb. 16 when he finished last at Riviera in Los Angeles. He chose not to play the next four weeks with his back not feeling just right, and then the pandemic shut down golf and sports worldwide.

Woods looked sharp for the most part, with his game and his words. Mickelson on the fifth hole asked Woods to mark his ball from some 80 yards away.

"You want me to mark with a U.S. Open medal," said Woods, a three-time champion of the only major Mickelson hasn't won.

"Do you have one? I have some silver ones," Mickelson said, referring to his record six runner-up finishes.

Mickelson boasted about taking Woods down on his home course at Medalist, and now their TV matches are tied at 1, even with each getting a little help. Mickelson says he was a little nervous on the front nine until he found his groove, driving the green on the par-4 11th with Brady making a 20-footer for eagle that began their rally.

"Phil said he was nervous. I know Tom and I were comparing notes," Manning said. "To be behind the ropes in these guys' worlds, to be in the arena with them, it was really a special experience. I was not comfortable the entire time. Knowing $20 million was raised and helping people going through tough times, it was an honor to be invited.

"It's something I'll always remember."

Neymar closer to Barca return as PSG eyes Dembele

PARIS—Neymar's return to Barcelona could be getting a little closer.

The Paris Saint-Germain star continues to be linked with a return to Camp Nou, where he left in 2017 for a world-record $264 million.

While there is uncertainty over whether Barcelona can get a deal done, it seems it may be getting closer.

Paris Saint-Germain remain very interested in signing Ousmane Dembele and it could help Neymar return to Barcelona, according to Sport.

France international Dembele has struggled with injuries since joining Barca from Borussia Dortmund in 2017, but the former Rennes attacker could be set for a return to his homeland.

However, Marca reports Neymar is not a priority for Barcelona with their focus on Inter star Lautaro Martinez and Juventus midfielder Miralem Pjanic.

Staying at Barcelona and Sport says the club are following Hertha Berlin's 18-year-old midfielder Lazar Samardzic.

Barcelona boss Quique Setien says he would love to coach Neymar and would be "delighted" if the Brazilian returns to the club from Paris Saint-Germain.

Barca tried to re-sign Neymar last year but were unable to agree a deal with French champions PSG.

An agreement may even harder to strike this summer given the financial implications of the coronavirus pandemic, although reportedly Barcelona could offer players in exchange.

"I would love to be able to coach him some day," said Setien, speaking to beIN Sport late on Friday. "We are talking about an exceptional level. Fortunately I have already fulfilled one of my dreams, which was to coach (Lionel) Messi but I would be delighted if Neymar comes."

Neymar previously formed a successful attacking trio with Luis Suarez and Messi at Barcelona but Suarez's future is uncertain.

The 33-year-old has not played since January when he underwent surgery on an injury to his right knee, and Setien admitted he needs more time to regain full fitness with La Liga given the green light by the Spanish government on Saturday to start in the week of June 8.

Crucial week for Premier League

The upcoming week is a huge one for the Premier League as a key vote and serious talks are set to take place with regards to restarting the 2019-20 season.

All 20 clubs will meet on several video conference calls to discuss the protocols around a return to full-contact training, subject to government approval, as players, managers and the Premier League will discuss the details with medical experts. The UK government have yet to release details about stage two of a return to training for professional athletes and several Premier League stars have revealed their angst about returning to training.

Clubs will then vote on a return to full-contact training on Wednesday and depending on the outcome of that vote, that will shape further talks. If full-contact training is given the thumbs up, it is expected that on Thursday clubs will then discuss the plan to either restart the season in mid-June or curtailment plans which would see the table potentially decided on a points-per-game basis.

The Premier League confirmed over the weekend that from 1,744 tests on players and staff across the first two rounds of COVID-19 tests, eight positive tests have been recorded with players from both Watford and Bournemouth confirmed to have the virus.

Players will again be tested on Monday and Tuesday and the results of those tests will be key in seeing how the strict protocols at training grounds are working.

All 20 clubs unanimously voted in favor of a return to small-group training and they are all said to be in favor of a return to action, although some have publicly aired reservations.

The next few days seem pivotal as to whether or not the final 92 games of the Premier League season will be played and all eyes will be on the vote on Wednesday, if the UK government can provide details on the new protocols. ***(NBC)***

HoF may delay Kobe and company induction

BOSTON—One of the most anticipated Naismith Hall of Fame classes in basketball history could have to wait for induction, depending on the area's progress in containing the coronavirus pandemic.

The induction ceremony of Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan, Kevin Garnett and Tamika Catchings, as well as a number of coaches and executives, is facing a possible delay to Oct. 9-11 and the spring of 2021, Hall of Fame CEO John Doleva told the Boston Globe.

The ceremony is currently scheduled to take place over Aug. 28-30.

Doleva reportedly said the decision will be made in the coming week, and the ceremony will be moved to the larger MassMutual Center (capacity, 8,319) in Springfield, Massachusetts, from Symphony Hall (capacity 2,611) to allow for greater social distancing.

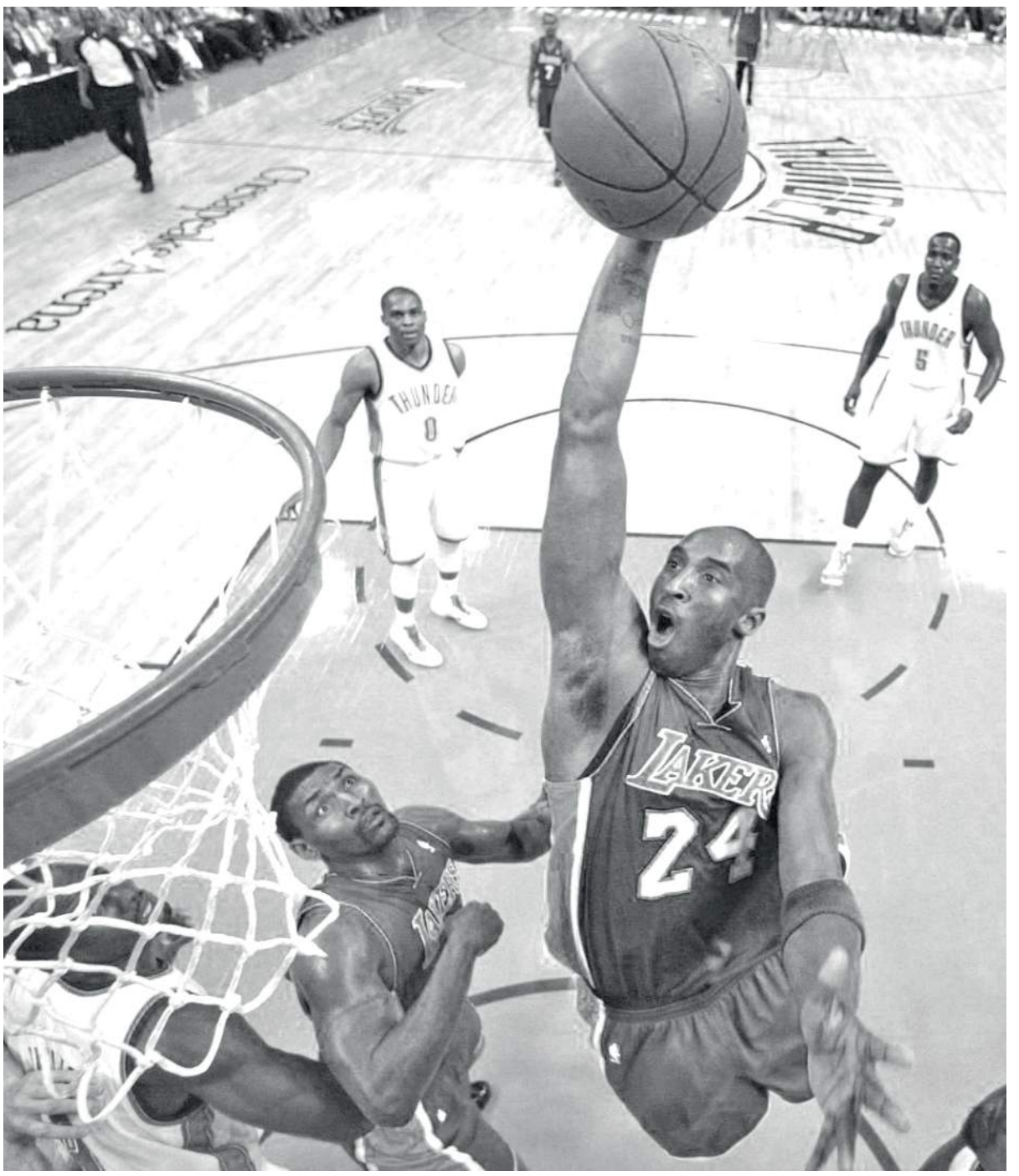
One thing Doleva did rule out is possibly combining the classes of 2020 and 2021. The latter could be on track to feature the likes of Paul Pierce, Chris Bosh and Chris Webber.

If the decision is to delay, the Hall of Fame ceremony would be only the latest sporting event to meet such a fate during the pandemic. The importance of the audience in the ceremony means some kind of virtual event is probably not happening.

However, a delay would be all the more unfortunate due to the emotions already surrounding the class due to Bryant's death in January.

While previous Hall of Fame ceremonies have not allowed family members of posthumous inductees to speak live at the ceremony—they would tape video presentations instead—Doleva reportedly said that rule will change with the Class of 2020.

Obviously, that would allow Bryant's widow, Vanessa, or another family member to speak on his behalf at the ceremony, which figures to be a powerful moment as the legacy of the Los Angeles Lakers great is cemented in Springfield.



AP

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the induction ceremony of Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan, Kevin Garnett and Tamika Catchings, as well as a number of coaches and executives, is facing a possible delay to Oct. 9-11 and the spring of 2021.

Bryant's family has reportedly indicated they want to be involved in the ceremony.

"I had the opportunity to speak very briefly with Mrs. Bryant, and she was very appreciative and very emotional," Doleva said. "She has certainly indicated to be very involved, she and her family and others, in his enshrinement ceremony when it happens."

Knicks, Nets cleared to open facilities

As of today, 19 NBA teams have their practice facilities open for players to come in for individual workouts, but 11 have yet to open the doors. Some it's the decision of the team, some it's that the municipality or state had not allowed it.

The Knicks and Nets—in the heart of New York, the part of the nation hardest hit by COVID-19—are two of those teams whose facilities are closed. However, on Sunday New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said they could open the door for practice.

"I believe that sports that can come back without having people in the stadium, without having people in the arena—do it! Do it!" Cuomo said at his press conference. "Work out the economics, if you can. We want you up. We want people to be able to watch sports. To the extent people are still staying home, it gives people something to do. It's a return to normalcy. So we are working and encouraging all sports teams to start their training camps as soon as possible. And we'll work with them to make sure that can happen."

While the teams have not formally announced anything yet, it is likely at least the Nets will open soon for the players still in market to workout (the majority of players from the New York teams went home to other parts of the country). The Knicks, well out of the playoff picture, may be much slower to open their facilities back up.

When they happen, the workouts come with considerable restrictions: one player and one coach at each basket, the coach is wearing gloves and masks, the balls and gym equipment are sanitized, and much more.

One part of a potential plan for the NBA to return to play called for a couple of weeks of a training camp at the team facilities, followed by 14 days of a quarantined training camp in Orlando at the bubble site. Multiple teams reached out to the league about doing their entire training camp in Orlando to avoid having players quarantine twice—once when the player reports back to market, once when the team goes to the bubble city. ***(AP/NBC)***

Stidham solid prospect for Pats starting QB spot

NEW ENGLAND—Jim Nagy still can't believe Jarrett Stidham was a fourth-round NFL draft pick in 2019.

The Senior Bowl director understood the questions about Stidham, the Auburn quarterback who failed to build on an impressive 2017 season. But coming off a rousing bowl win over Purdue in which he completed 15 of 21 passes for 373 yards and five TDs, and a strong week at the Senior Bowl, Stidham still fell to Day 3 of the draft.

Even New England reasonably had doubts. Stidham was selected 133rd overall, the seventh QB drafted in 2019. When the Patriots made the pick, it was the 10th time they were on the clock that draft, three trades down included.

"For a quarterback with as much ability as Jarrett had to go that late, it's still just a head-scratcher," Nagy said.

Now Stidham is on the cusp of a life-changing opportunity with the Patriots: the chance to replace Tom Brady, one of best ever to do it in league annals. With only journeyman Brian Hoyer standing in his way, Stidham could become only the fourth starting quarterback to take the majority of the Patriots' snaps in a season during Bill Belichick's 20-plus years in New England.

So what exactly do the Patriots have in the soon-to-be 24-year-old passer with four career regular-season pass attempts?

To arrive at that answer, we must revisit his up-and-down college career, one that offered promise and also showed why he wasn't universally beloved as an NFL prospect.

Stidham had a strange college experience. He was a top-100 Rivals recruit in the class of 2015, first committing to Kliff Kingsbury at Texas Tech before ending up at Baylor. As a true freshman, Stidham won the backup job behind Seth Russell and was strong (24-of-28 passing, 331 yards and six touchdowns, plus one rushing score) in seven relief appearances.

When Russell went down with a neck injury that season, Stidham was thrown into the fire as a 19-year-old. He faced three fairly tough opponents and hung tough despite taking a beating. Stidham completed 51 of 81 passes for 934 yards, six TDs and two INTs in three starts against Kansas State, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, also rushing for another TD.

An NFC scouting director said that Stidham was a solid prospect with starter potential. But there were enough hangups for their team to have doubts.

"You had enough questions ... to wonder what his upside would be," the director said. "Similar to [2020 prospect] Jordan Love, it's problematic when a guy takes a step back his last year. Even with the bowl game, there just wasn't enough consistency. Against pressure, being decisive with reads, hitting [receivers] in stride ... [His] footwork was also a bit of a mess."

But the director added: "The offense was in disarray. He had young receivers, a bad offensive line ... a scheme that didn't play to his strengths. It made no sense until [head coach Gus Malzahn] fixed it late. [Stidham's arm talent was] pretty good, and he could throw on the move. He also went to the Senior Bowl and did well."

Stidham worked with Kyle Shanahan and the San Francisco 49ers' coaching staff at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Alabama, and got better with each practice. Capping his week with a sizzling red-zone session and some nice throws in third-down work, Stidham mostly stood tall.

"I was expecting him to show really well," Nagy said. "Really, I knew he would show well."

When the Patriots drafted Stidham, he became their fourth QB selection in a six-year span, following Jimmy Garoppolo (second round, 2014), Jacoby Brissett (third round, 2016) and Danny Etling (seventh round, 2018). Nagy says Stidham has a chance to be as good as any of them.

It's fair to assume that the Patriots graded his arm talent, plus a few other strengths, positively.

If Stidham beats Hoyer for the starting job, he faces a fairly daunting Patriots schedule. It features showdowns with Russell Wilson and Patrick Mahomes prior to the Week 6 bye.

Stidham could face off against a first-round QB in New England's final 11 regular-season games and possibly face QBs who were drafted higher than he was in all but one game—Week 1 vs. Miami (Ryan Fitzpatrick, assuming he wins the job).

The way Stidham can prove that he should have been drafted earlier is by doing some of the things he did well at Auburn.

It would not be stunning to see New England's offense start fairly conservatively, playing to its assumed strengths—a good offensive line and run game. ***(NBC)***

MLB, players still negotiating for 2020 season

NEW YORK— Will there be baseball in 2020?

Behind the scenes, both Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association are prepared to amend, if slightly, their previously reported stances in their ongoing financial dispute in an effort to come together and open the door to a shortened 2020 season.

According to a source with knowledge of the situation, the league will make a proposal to the players' union Tuesday that will be a compromise from the 50-50 revenue sharing split that had been floated earlier this month. This could serve as a starting point in negotiations from MLB's side.

Meanwhile, the union is expected to propose a plan that allows players to receive their prorated salaries based on the number of games played, which was part of an agreement between the two sides finalized March 26. But a certain amount of money would be deferred to future years to help reduce the owners' expenses for the 2020 season.

These, according to a source, would likely be the general starting points in negotiations, a clear signal that both sides are willing to move closer to one another in the hope they can come to an agreement that allows for a return to play.

Progress was made last week on the health-and-safety issues that need to be resolved, with players and the many others needed to stage a season being asked to return to work in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All of the messages being passed through back channels is that both the league and the players want to play.

"I think everybody has something to win in here by having a baseball season," White Sox pitcher Evan Marshall said last week on the White Sox Talk Podcast. "You've got your fans and the interest and love of the game, and also we'd be the only thing going on, which is great for our game. The owners have their TV deals and advertisements. We have stats to put up and games to win. There are a lot of things that would be good that would come from us having a season, and not playing, I think, is just a loss for everybody."

Next week is shaping up to be a pivotal one in determining whether baseball will be played in 2020. Fortunately, there are signs that progress could be on the horizon.

Meanwhile, Giants CEO Larry Baer understands the frustrations in baseball right now. He gets why fans want games back, he gets why players want to be safe amid the coronavirus pandemic and he gets why owners are playing their hand financially with revenue losses of a shortened season.

Aside from all hurdles, Baer believes a season will be played.

"I think if you look at the timelines that have been laid out, we're very hopeful, and personally, I'm optimistic. I'm not involved in the negotiations, so I don't know the day-to-day, but I think at the timelines that have been laid out, there would be ample time to get an agreement done to get the kind of season we're all talking about, which would be somewhere in that range of 80 games, 82 games, so, a half-season," Baer said.

First and foremost, players' health should be priority No. 1. This won't be easy with 30 teams all across the country.

MLB already has proposed massive health changes to how players and coaches can act once games resume, including no spitting, high-fives, fist bumps or hugs, among other ways of the game in a 67-page document. And then you take into account how often players and coaches will have to be tested for the coronavirus.

"We still, realistically, for this to be able to work from a health and safety standpoint, with the municipalities, we would need to socialize in 30 different markets, or 30 teams, 25 markets have to socialize [for] this to work, and that process has started," Baer said. "So I think even though we don't have a deal now, I think in order for the timelines to be executed, we don't have to have a deal today in order for this program to work, which I think people are pretty excited about the prospects of potentially, can we play in July?"

"To do that, you're still working with the public health officials in all these markets and then have the workouts and that's going to be a three-to-four week period, and testing that can be done without taking testing away from the communities, make sure it's not impacting people," he added.

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(split) at UFC Fight Night 161 in October last year and Jalin Turner (unanimous) in UFC 236 in April of the same year.

The Serra-Longo Fight Team standout had his UFC debut in Fight Night 124 in January 2018 and lost to Marco Polo Reyes, who knocked out the former (punches) at the one-minute mark of the first round. Ten months after his sorry debut, Frevola challenged Lando Vannata in UFC 230 and settled for a draw. Before his 2018 fights, Frevola swept all his six assignments, highlighting the streak with a TKO win (2:46 of Round 1) over Mike D' Angelo at Real Fighting Championship in November 2015.

Camacho's TKO victory was more recent, as he hammered Nick Hein (4:56 of Round 2) in Fight Night 152 in June 2019 before losing his latest fight—against Beneil Darius (submission, rear-naked chocked at 2:02 of Round 1)—in October last year.

Overall, Camacho holds a 2-4 win-loss record in UFC and a career 22-8 mark.

Frevola, in his social media post, expressed his excitement on battling Camacho.

"I'm throwing down with the tough island warrior Frank Camacho in Vegas. Time to do what we do, this will be a fun one for sure, let's get it," he said.

Camacho's showdown against Frevola is the first of his new four-fight deal with one of the biggest MMA promotion companies in the world.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this November 2017 file photo, Frank "The Crank" Camacho hits Damien Brown during the first round of their bout in UFC Fight Night 121 in Sydney, Australia.

PERSONAL

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with former teammate Tyce Mister as part of their training session under the CNMI's first coach Jeff "Ziggy" Korytoski.

"We call it the 'Circle of Death," Knecht said.

Barry, also one of the young players on the team, remembered the summer they spent on Saipan training instead of being with their families in the mainland and enjoying vacation. In his early years with the squad, he also pointed out the series of practices in a day (between club and national team duties), four to five days a week plus the volunteer work (coaching or referring) they had with the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and their respective clubs.

Schuler, who rejoined the national team twice from the mainland after leaving Saipan in 2011, missed the first birthday of her daughter when he played for the Blue Ayuyus in 2016 during the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2017 Round 1.

"It was just unfortunate to miss my daughter's first birthday. But, you have to do your part since everyone wants to do it, play for the CNMI. I have great admiration for our team, for working together and having the FA's support when we go out there and represent the islands," Schuler said.

With his desire to play for the Commonwealth so high, Schuler had to squeeze training time (on his own) from his already busy schedule with family and work duties (he works as a lawyer in Iowa) to keep up with the on-island players' preparations. Schuler also played club soccer until last year when a nagging knee injury forced him to have a break.

Dunn, meanwhile, has been on island since he started suiting up for the Blue Ayuyus in 2014, but nearly missed a family milestone while preparing for a competition. He injured his shoulder while playing in training match against a Japanese collegiate team just days before his wife gave birth to their son.

"When he came, I was too scared and can't hold him because I was still wearing the sling," Dunn said.

After recalling the highs and lows of their time with the Blue Ayuyus, Dunn and company were just thankful for the opportunities to play for the national team and work with guys who were willing to step up back then and start something that will benefit future generation of CNMI players.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The then 16-year-old Lucas Knecht, center, battles a Guam player for possession during their game in the East Asian Football Championship 2010 Preliminary Competition at Leo Palace Resort in Guam in 2009.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The CNMI Men's National Team's Kirk Schuler, right, chases down a Macau player, while goalie Johann Noetzel gets ready on defense during their game in the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary Round 1 in Guam in 2014.

Tiger, Peyton win TV charity match as good as real thing

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

HoF may delay Kobe and company induction

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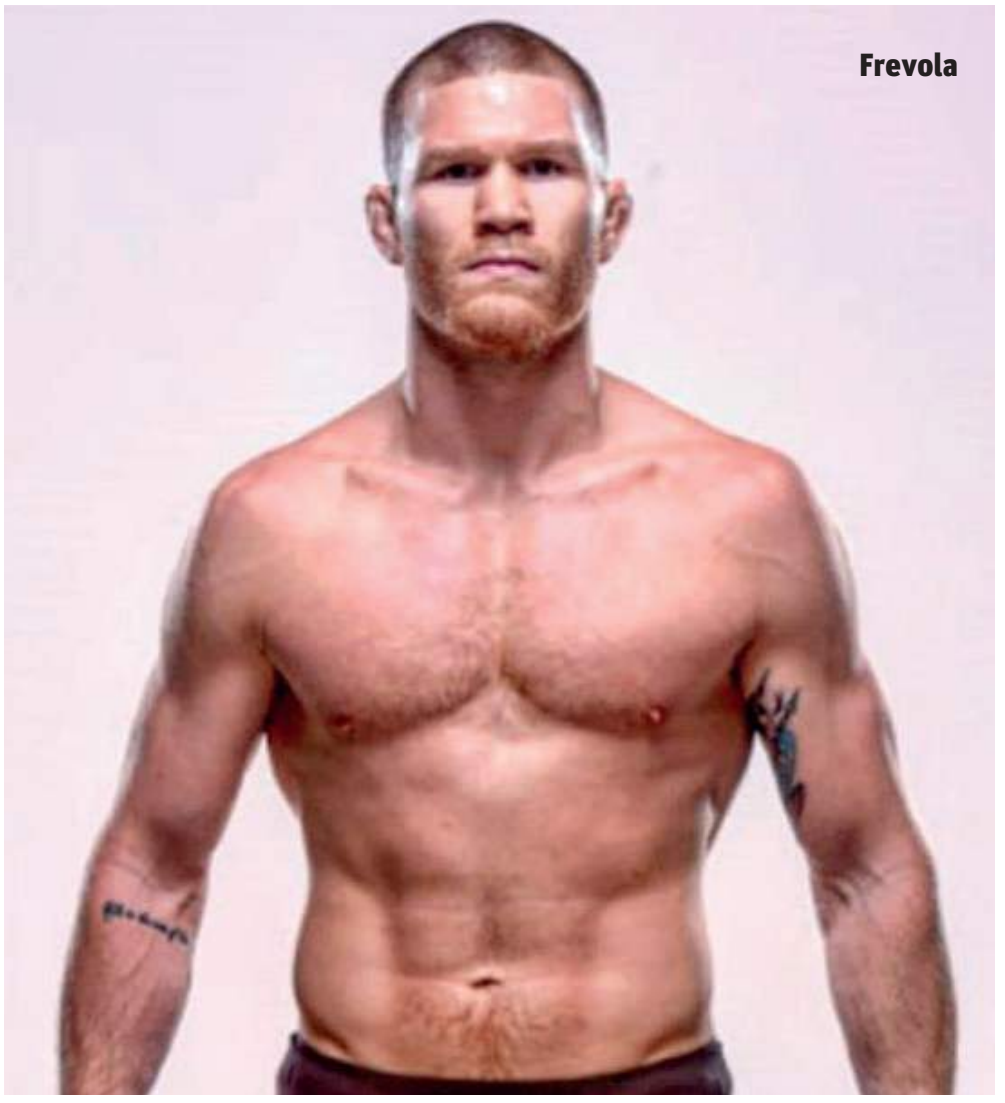
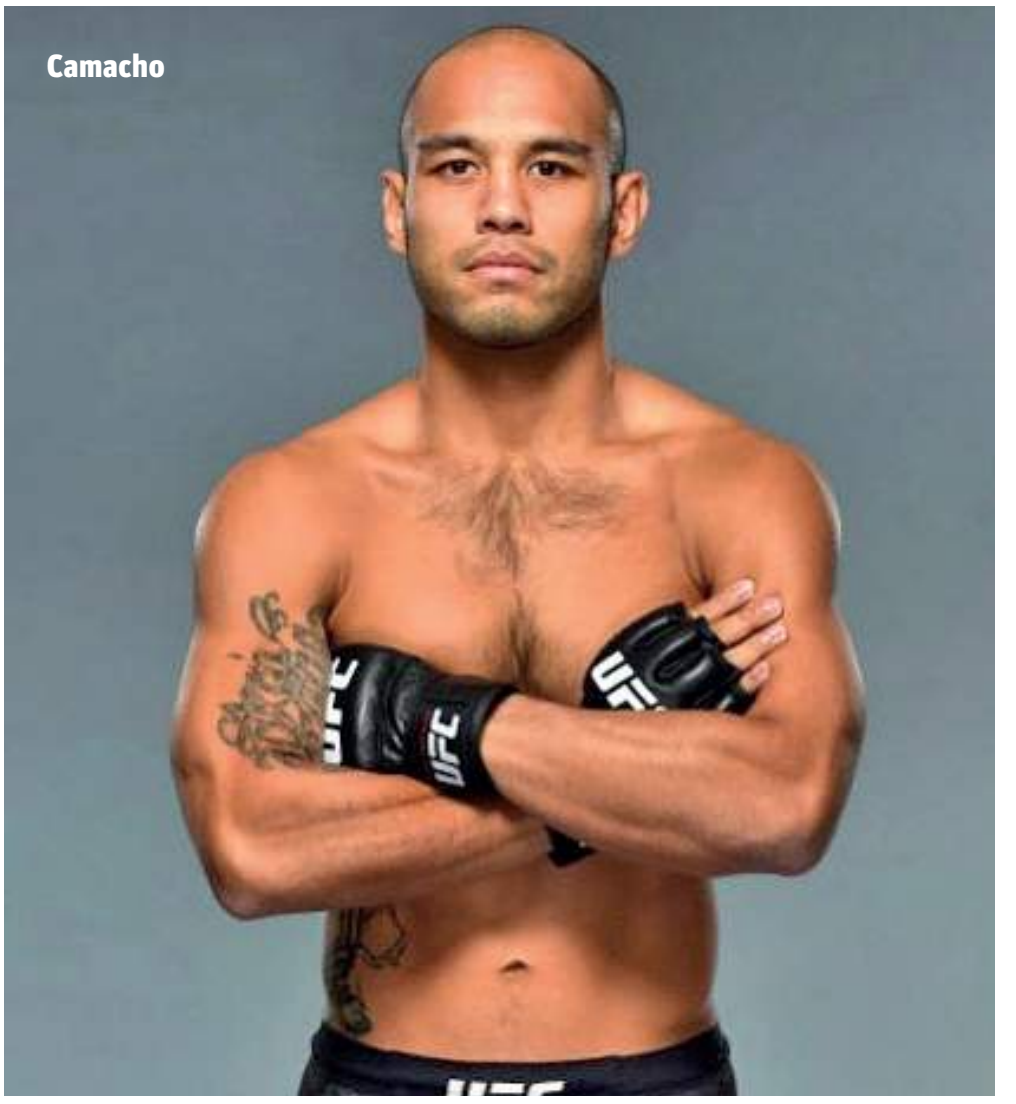
‘The Crank’ faces new foe



Frevola



Camacho

Personal sacrifices for national team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It’s the turn of the former members of the CNMI Men’s National Team to walk us through their experience with the Blue Ayuyus in Episode 2 of *Footcast with Norman* aired last Saturday.

Lucas Knecht, Bo Barry, Jonathan Takano, and Kirk Schuler, who are off-island, and Trey Dunn shared had a lengthy discussion with Footcast moderator Norman Del Rosario and among the topics mentioned was the personal sacrifice the players had to make for the national team.

Knecht, since moving back to the mainland, had to skip school for three to four weeks to attend the Blue Ayuyus’ training camp and play for the CNMI in East Asian Football Confederation and Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournaments.

“It was tough, especially when you get back to school and catch up. But, I will do it again because it’s an honor to play for the national team,” said Knecht, who made history for the NMI, as he became the youngest player (14 years old) in the world to have played for a men’s national team in an international match when he suited up for the Commonwealth in the 2017 Marianas Cup.

The centerback also recalled the 4:30am run to the American Memorial Park

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GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Members of the CNMI Men’s National Team pay their respect to the Commonwealth flag before battling host Guam in the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary Round 1 in 2014.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas warrior Frank “The Crank” Camacho still made it to the lineup of the UFC Fight Night 173 and will take on a new opponent in Matt “The Steamrolla” Frevola next month.

Camacho was originally set to have his first bout of the season on April 25 against Brazil’s Alan Patrick “Nuguette” Silva Alves at the Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln, Nebraska, but the duel was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. A new set of fight card for Fight Night 173 has been released and the Camacho-Frevola pairing will be among the seven supporting bouts to the main event collision between Illinois’ Curtis Blaydes and Russia’s Alexander Volkov on June 20 at UFC Apex, Las Vegas, Nevada.

“Blessed for the opportunity to get back in there against a tough and exciting opponent,” Camacho said on his social media post as he made the announcement of his lightweight fight.

The 31-year-old Camacho will be facing a foe that has lesser a number of octagon appearances than him, as Frevola has only saw action on the eight sides 10 times. However, out of those 10 assignments, the New York native won eight—four via decisions, three off submissions, and one by TKO.

Frevola prevailed in his last two fights—all via decisions—as he topped Luis Pena

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